

樋口大輔

The game (*Whistle*) of four-and-a-half years is over for now.

To you readers: What was this game like?

Did it make you feel excited?

Did it make you feel nervous?

Did you feel warm emotion springing up?

I want you to read my game work; I will always aim for the best.

– Daisuke Higuchi

Daisuke Higuchi's manga career began in 1992 when the artist was honored with third prize in the 43rd Osamu Tezuka Award. In that same year, Higuchi debuted as creator of a romantic action story titled ***Itaru***. In 1998, ***Weekly Shonen Jump*** began serializing ***Whistle!*** Higuchi's realistic soccer manga became an instant hit with readers and eventually inspired an anime series, debuting on Japanese TV in May of 2002.

WHISTLE!
VOL. 24: YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE

SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

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SHONEN JUMP
www.shonenjump.com

WHISTLE!



Vol. 24

YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE

Story and Art by **Daisuke Higuchi**

CHARACTERS



SHŌ KAZAMATSURI

● JOSUI JUNIOR HIGH SOCCER TEAM
FORWARD



TSUBASA SHIINA

AKIRA SAIONJI





TATSUYA MIZUNO

● JOSUI JUNIOR HIGH SOCCER TEAM
MIDFIELDER

SHIGEKI FUJIMURA

KANSAI SELECT TEAM

FORWARD





SEIJI FUJISHIRO

TOKYO SELECT TEAM

FORWARD



DAICHI FUWA

TOKYO SELECT TEAM

GOALKEEPER

STORY

TO REALIZE HIS DREAM, SHŌ KAZAMATSURI, A BENCHWARMER AT SOCCER POWERHOUSE MUSASHINOMORI, TRANSFERRED TO JOSUI JUNIOR HIGH SO HE COULD PLAY THE GAME HE LOVES.

BY PLAYING MANY GAMES AND GOING UP AGAINST POWERFUL SOCCER PLAYERS, SHŌ GRADUALLY SHARPENS HIS SKILLS AND MANAGES TO LAND A SUBSTITUTE POSITION ON THE WORLD-TRAVELING TOKYO SELECT TEAM.

TOKYO SELECT TEAM HAS NOW JOINED THE NATIONAL TORESEN--A TRAINING EVENT WHERE THE BEST PLAYERS FROM EACH DISTRICT GO HEAD-TO-HEAD IN AN INTENSE ELIMINATION TOURNAMENT.

IN THE FINAL GAME, TOKYO IS UP AGAINST KANSAI SELECT, AND THEIR STAR PLAYER IS SHIGEKI--SHŌ AND TATSUYA'S EX-CLASSMATE FROM JOSUI. WILL THEY BE FACING OFF AGAINST A DEAR FRIEND...OR A RUTHLESS ENEMY?



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STAGE.207
Shō's Response



HU FF

HU FF

HU FF

HU FF

HU FF

東京

HU FF

SHOOT

IF I MOVE AROUND...

...I CAN MAKE AN OPENING!

KANGAI

AH!

THERE'RE TWO MARKS ON SEIJI!

BOOM

IT'S A *KILLER PASS*, SLICING RIGHT INTO THE *HEART* OF THE DEFENSE!

NOT YET!

HE CAN'T REACH IT!

SPIN

TOOM

TOO SLOW ...

WHO

MP

IT'S KANSAI'S BALL!

FASTER!

KEEP THOSE ATTACKS COMING!

ALL RIGHT! KANSAI'S DEFENSE HAS MORE HOLES THAN A COLANDER!

BO

WHAT THE ...?!

OMI

BA

P

SKI DOD

TW OF

THU NK

NO, HE'S GOT THE RIGHT IDEA.

KANSAI'S DEFENSE IS COMING TOGETHER. IF THE PASSES AREN'T DIFFICULT, THEY'LL JUST BE BLOCKED.

HE SHOULD BE SENDING EASIER PASSES.

WHAT'S WITH TATSUYA ?!

SHŌ AND TATSUYA ARE FIGURING OUT HOW TO MATCH THEIR TIMING.

BESIDES ...

BO

NOT YET!

OW

A LOT FASTER.

I GOTTA BE FASTER.

THU

D

BA

M

AGH!

WH

AM

THAT IDIOT!

...

THROB THROB

WHOA!

THAT WAS DANGER-OUS!

IT'S JUST A PRACTICE GAME-- WHAT'S UP WITH THE RISKY PLAYS?!

SOMEONE COULD REALLY GET *HURT!*

WELL, I GUESS IT'S *NOT* JUST A PRACTICE GAME.

SHŌ CAN'T HELP GIVING IT HIS ALL, WHETHER IT'S RECKLESS OR NOT.

AND RIGHT NOW, MERE WORDS AREN'T GOING TO GET THROUGH TO TATSUYA.

IF I MOVE WHEN I SEE THE BALL MOVING, IT'S TOO LATE.

I HAVE TO *MOVE* BY FEELING WHERE IT *WILL BE SENT.*

THE FORWARD MAKES THE MIDFIELDER COME ALIVE, AND THE MIDFIELDER MAKES THE FORWARD COME ALIVE.

SHŌ-- TEACH TATSUYA HOW TO DO THAT!

FW 00

BOOM

BAM

TATSUYA...

HE LET IT THROUGH!

WHAT'S GETTING HIM SO WORKED UP?

WHAT IS HE ANGRY ABOUT?

WHAT IS HE TRYING TO COMMUNICATE...

...THROUGH THESE NEW, STRONGER PASSES?

THAT PLAY WASN'T BAD, BUT...

IT LOST ITS MOMEN-TUM!

I GOT ...

...HUH?

I CAN ONLY ANSWER...

I CAN'T USE WORDS TO RESPOND TO THIS COMMUNICATION...

...AS A FORWARD !!

KAMI

WE'RE GONNA CRASH!

GASP!

THUMP

IT'S 2-1!!

10

GOAL!

HE'S CATCHING UP WITH ME.

SHEESH, THAT BRAT.

A FORWARD COULDN'T PULL THAT OFF UNLESS HE REALLY TRUSTED HIS MID-FIELDER.

MAN!

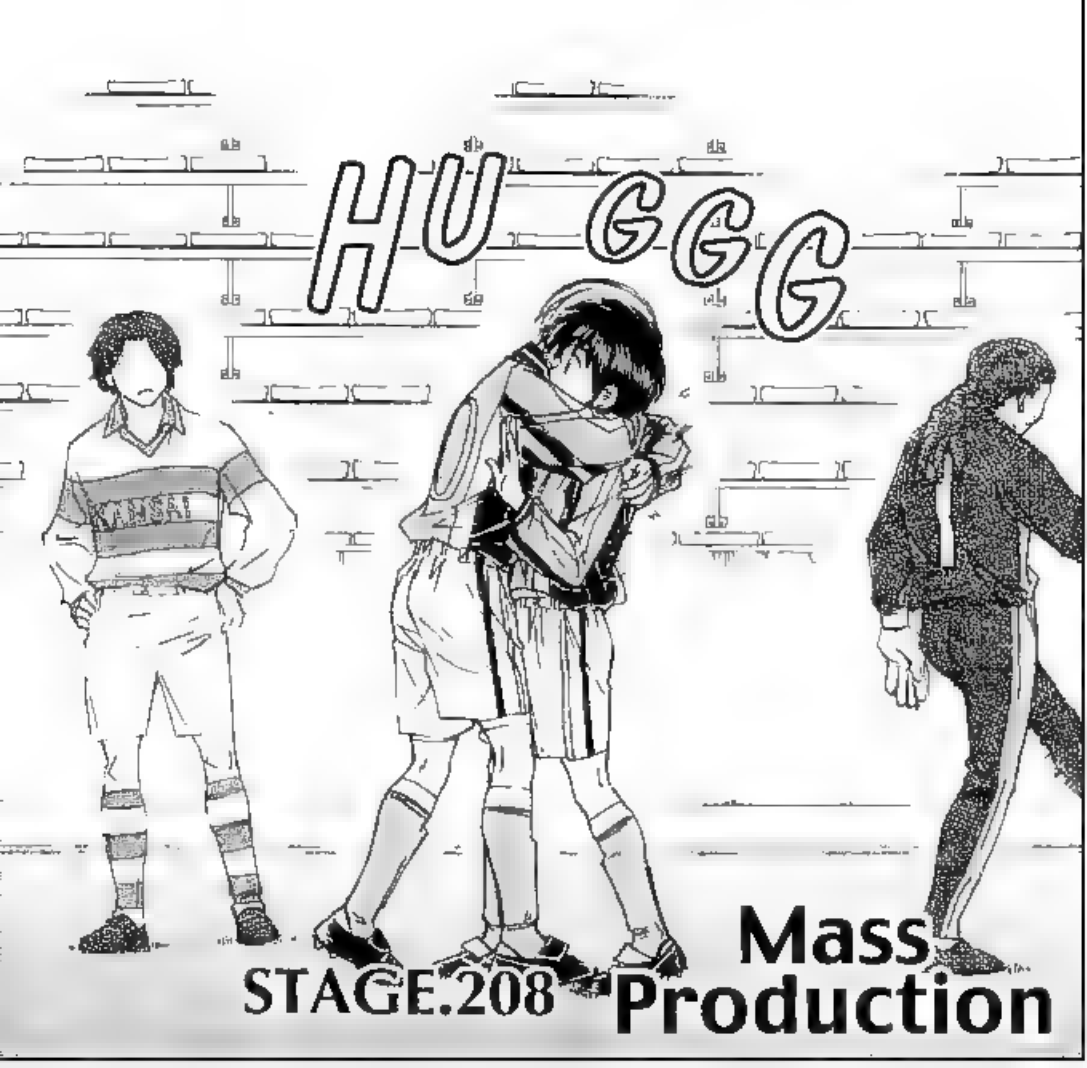
WHAT KIND OF GUY JUMPS HEADFIRST INTO SUCH A TIGHT SPOT?

TA-TSUY...


18

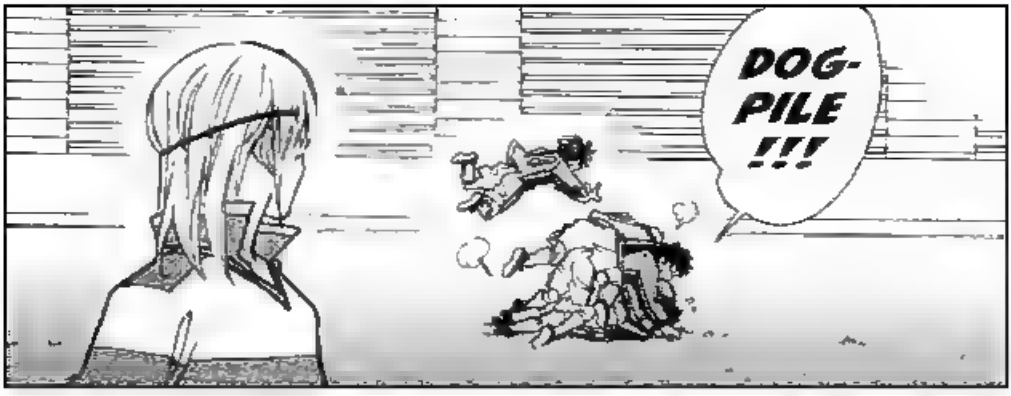


WHISTLE!


HUGGG
STAGE.208
Mass Production


YEAH.
YOU CAUGHT UP.


YIKES!


DOG-PILE !!!


1ST
2ND
EXT
I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY FINISHED THE FIRST HALF LEADING 2-1.


I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT THAT REALLY WAS A BEAUTIFUL GOAL.
KANSAI


BEFORE TOKYO SELECT HITS THEIR STRIDE, WE'RE GOING TO STRIKE BACK!
ALREADY ?
HUH?
YOSHI-ZUMI, YOU'RE UP.
THE SECOND HALF IS STARTING!
GEEZ. YOU KNOW I'VE GOT NO STAMINA.
KRIK
KANSAI


NUMBER 17 IS REPLACING NUMBER 7!
SLOUCH...
SHUFFLE...
HEH HEH HEH.
BUT WHAT'S UP WITH THAT SCRAWNY ...
. . LETHARGIC DUDE?
I FIGURED THEY MUST HAVE SOME STAR SUBS.


THUP
TWEEEEEEEE
ZOOOOOONE
WHAT'S WITH THAT GUY?!
DOES HE HAVE ANY WILL TO PLAY AT ALL?
MMMM.


SMIRK


KANSAI 1 1ST
2ND
EXT
1 TOTAL 2
KA
POW


GASP!
WHAM
WHOA!
HE MADE A SHOT ON THE GOAL FROM THE CENTER-LINE!
WHA
GK


DON'T LET THIS GUY FOOL YOU!
HMMMM.
KANSAI
THAT WAS CLOSE!!


I GUESS I'M DONE WITH MY WARM-UP NOW.
CRACK
HUH... ALMOST IN.
OH WELL, IT'S COOL.


HUH
KA
COUNTER-ATTACK!
POW


HE ISN'T RUNNING?
WHY NOT?
STARE
STARE
BA
M
AND NOW...
SPI
N
YOI
NK


YOU GUYS CAN TAKE CARE OF THIS ONE.
PASS!
BO
OW
GEEZ! I KNOW YOU HATE RUNNING, BUT...
TO OM
DON'T MAKE US RUN!

THE *ENTIRE* KANSAI TEAM IS MOVING FORWARD FOR THE ATTACK!

NO WAY!

WHO AM I SUPPOSED TO MARK?!

WHAT THE HECK IS THIS?

EVEN THEIR DEFENDERS HAVE COME UP THE FIELD!

THAT'S EASIER SAID THAN DONE, TSUBASA!

STICK RIGHT ON HIM!

DON'T LET HIM GET FREE!

NUMBER 10 DRIBBLES THROUGH!

AH-HA! AN OPENING!


GOAL!
NUMBER 10 WENT FOR THE SHOT!
IT'S TIED UP WITHIN TWO MINUTES OF THE SECOND HALF!




THAT NUMBER 17...


AFTER HE JOINED, THEIR OFFENSIVE POWER GOT TOTALLY JUICED UP.


YOINK
AL-RIGHTY.
YOU!
SCOOT SCOOT
SCOOT
YAH!
KA
POW
ZOOOOP


NICE PASS!
TH
UP
I CAN'T LET YOU GET ME OVER AND OVER AGAIN.
WHILE YOU SHOOT THAT BALL YOU TRAPPED, I'LL CATCH UP AND...
...STEAL THE...


BO
OH
INSAI

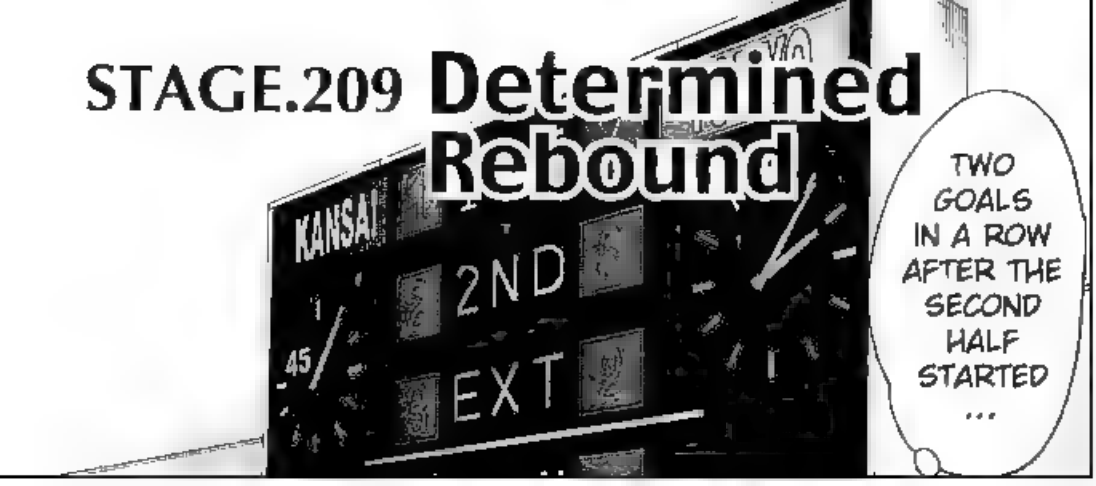

SWOOOSH
GOAL!
THAT'S TWO CONSECUTIVE GOALS!
KRIK
KANSAI STOLE TOKYO'S LEAD IN NO TIME AT ALL!
FIVE MINUTES INTO THE SECOND HALF, AND IT'S 3-2!


NO MATTER HOW MANY GOALS YOU MAKE, WE'LL MAKE 'EM RIGHT BACK!
YOU STOLE MY GOAL!
SO BRING IT ON!
IT'S NOT THAT KANSAI IS WEAK IN DEFENSE.
THEY'RE JUST COMMITTED TO OFFENSE-- A MASS-PRODUCTION GOAL FACTORY!
東京



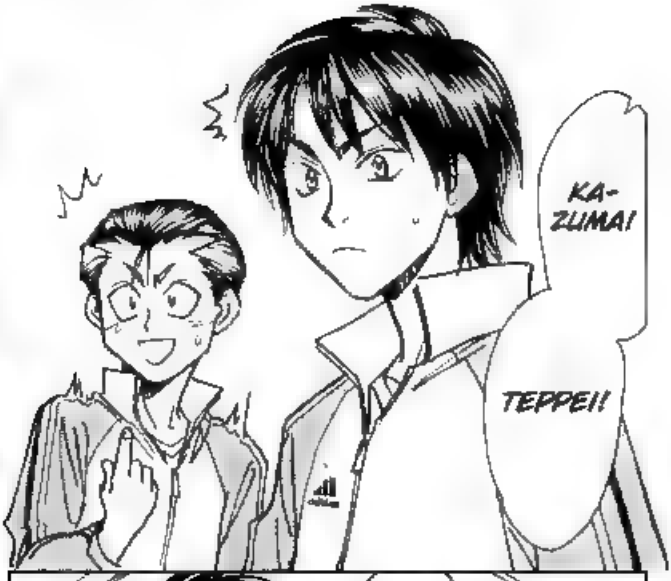
WHISTLE!

STAGE.209 Determined Rebound



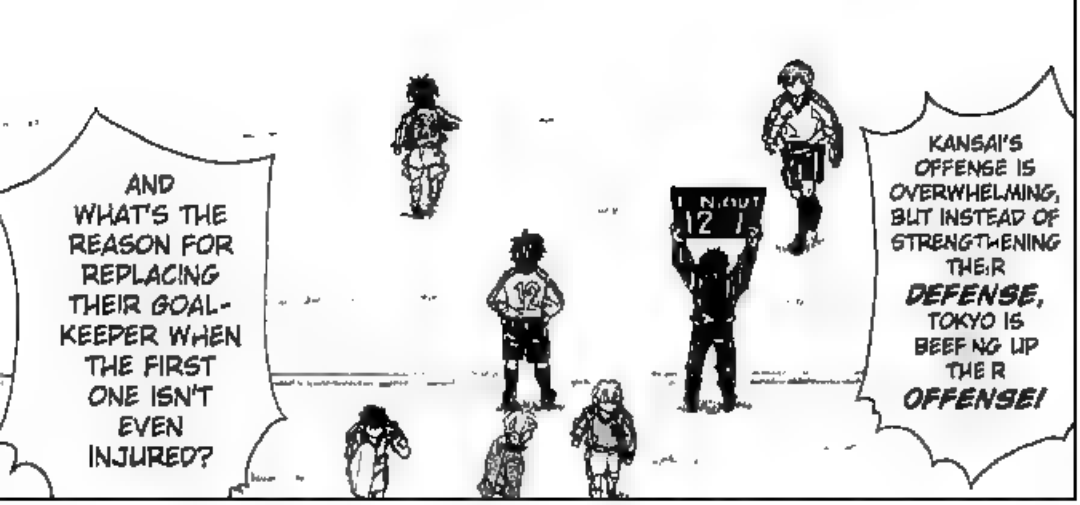






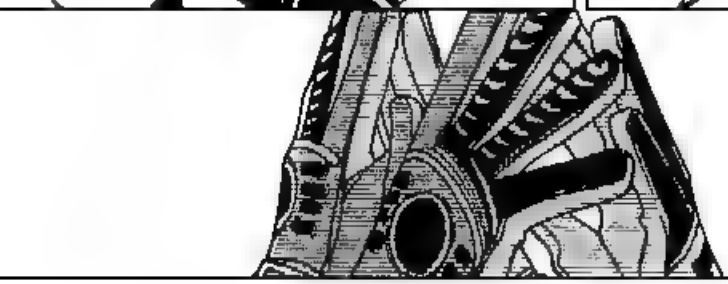


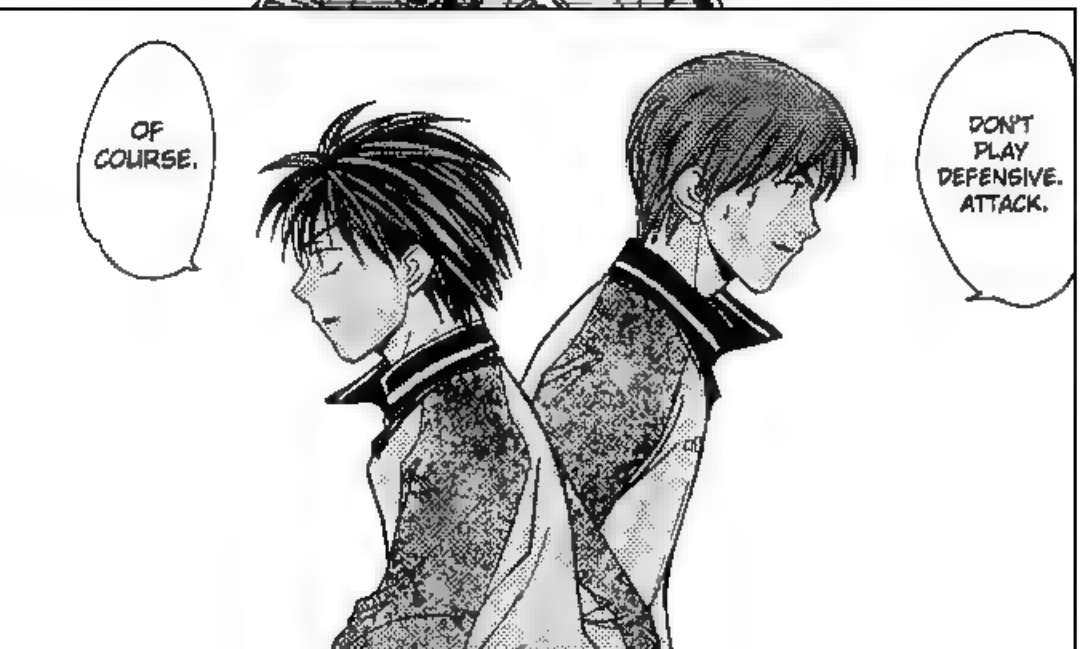

SERI-OUSLY?
OH.
TOKYO SELECT IS REPLACING THREE PLAYERS AT ONCE!

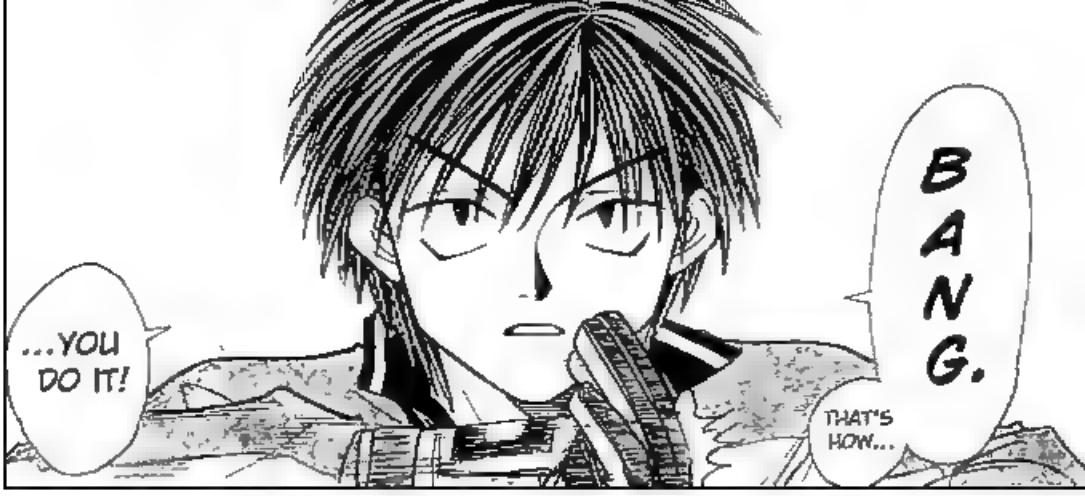

AND WHAT'S THE REASON FOR REPLACING THEIR GOAL-KEEPER WHEN THE FIRST ONE ISN'T EVEN INJURED?
IN OUT
12
KANSAI'S OFFENSE IS OVERWHELMING, BUT INSTEAD OF STRENGTHENING THEIR DEFENSE, TOKYO IS BEEFING UP THEIR OFFENSE!


THE ONLY WAY TO WIN THIS GAME IS TO ATTACK AND SCORE!
IF WE LET THEM GET TWO UP ON US, THAT'S THE MOMENT WE'VE LOST THE GAME.


A BULLISH LINE-UP-- THAT'S GOOD. I LIKE IT!
VERY DARING.




OF COURSE.
DON'T PLAY DEFENSIVE. ATTACK.


BANG.
THAT'S HOW...
...YOU DO IT!


I'M SO NERVOUS.
I'M TOTALLY NERVOUS.
THE DEFENDERS HAVE TO STAND FIRM.
DAICHI FREAKS ME OUT.


DAICHI IS LIKE A SHOT OF ADRENALINE TO GET OUR MINDS BACK IN THE GAME AND KEEP US FROM SLACKING OFF.
ALL RIGHT. LET'S DO THIS!


THAT'S WHAT COACH AKIRA HAD IN MIND.


I GET IT!
HUH!


BAM
BOOM
IT'S A VOLLEY!


I'M NOT LETTING THIS IN!
WHAM
TIME TO CATCH!
DE-FLECTED!
BUT NUMBER 9 OF KANSAI IS MOVING IN!


THE GOAL-KEEPER KEEPS ON FIGHTING!
BA
M
I'LL PUNCH IT.
CAN'T REACH IT IN TIME...
BUT NUMBER 9 IS FIGHTING TOO!
BO
OM


GOT IT!
WHAM
POW


THIS STOPS NOW.
WHAM
WE WON'T LET YOU SCORE AGAIN!


BAP
BOOM
THUD
COUNTER-STRIKE!
WHOOSH


OVER HERE!
KANSAI
YES! HE FOLLOWED ME!
BOOM
HE SENDS IT BACK TO NUMBER 9!
FEINTING THE SHOT...
BAM


WHAMMM
OUCH!
HE READ OUR PLAY!
NICE TRY, BUT...
I GOT-CHA.
IT'S NOT OVER YET!


POW
THUP
BOOM
SCRATCH
SHOOM


WH
AM
BON
G
A HIT STRAIGHT TO THE GOAL-POST!
TOO
BA
M
M

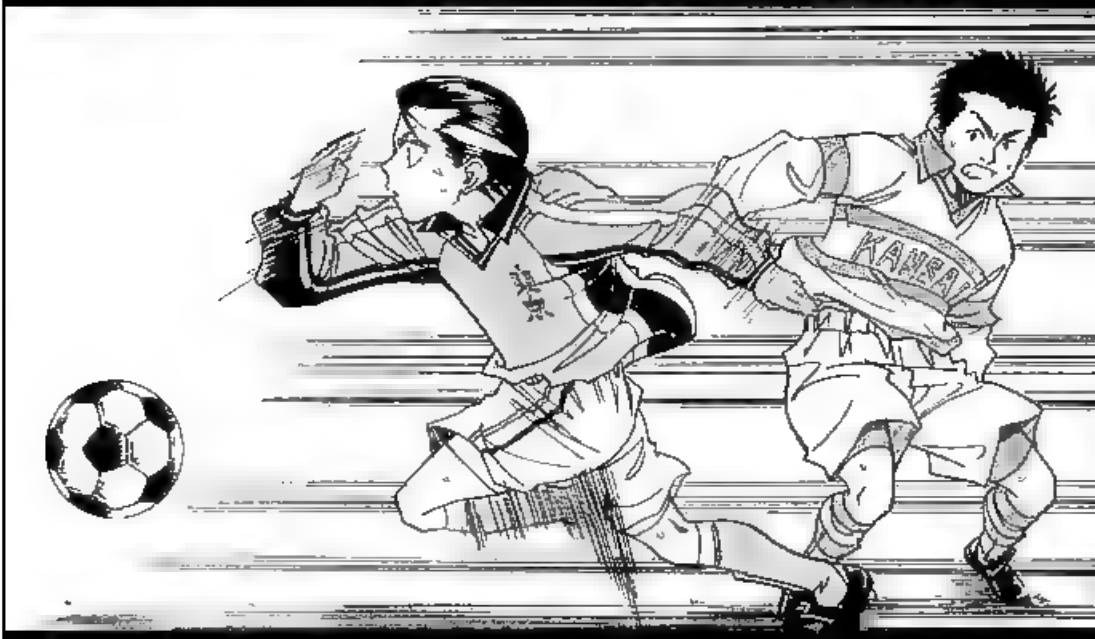



HUFF
HUFF
HUFF


INCREDIBLE!
BOTH THESE TEAMS ARE DETERMINED TO KEEP UP THEIR OFFENSE!
THERE'S NO WAY TO TELL HOW THIS GAME WILL GO UNTIL THE VERY END!



RUN!



KEEP THE OPPONENT GUESSING.





CONNECT THE PASS.



AND OVER AND OVER AGAIN...


AIM FOR THE GOAL!
IF WE GIVE UP, WE LOSE.


I DON'T WANT TO LOSE! NOT TO ANYONE!
ANSAI



WHISTLE!



STAGE.210

Can't Lose! Don't Want to Lose!


TOOM
IT SEEMED LIKE A SURE THING FOR TOKYO, BUT SOME-HOW...
...IT'S INTER-CEPTED!
I
HAVING A HARD TIME, SHŌ?
...
THROB
THROB


I'M PRETTY GOOD, AREN'T I?
KANSAI
YEAH!
NOD NOD
YOU'RE GOOD...
REAL GOOD!
BUT...
HE'S AS SINCERE AS HE EVER WAS
JEEZ, HOW EMBAR-RASSING! WHAT DO I SAY NOW?
...


WE'RE NOT GONNA LOSE.


SMILE


QUIVER
QUIVER
THIS IS HARD...
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE.
BUT I...
BOOM
DOOMooo
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF


GASP!
DA SH
SHŌ IS...
SKIDD


COACH!
WOBBLE
YEAH ...
SHOULDN'T WE PULL HIM OUT?
SHŌ IS CLEARLY EXHAUSTED.
adidas
IT'S WHAT EVERY COACH DREAMS OF SEEING...
BUT I HAVE THIS HUNCH.
AS A COACH, I SHOULDN'T LET A PLAYER OVERWORK HIMSELF MUCH FURTHER..


I JUST DON'T ...
...GET IT.
WHY DOES HE DO IT?
A PLAYER'S MOMENT OF TRANSFOR-MATION.


HOW CAN HE TRY SO HARD?
WHEN IT'S JUST A PRACTICE GAME TO WRAP UP THE TRAINING CAMP, WHY DOES HE PUSH HIMSELF THAT FAR?
WHEN IT'S NOT EVEN AN OFFICIAL GAME AND THERE'S NO TITLE AT STAKE...
IF SOMEONE COMMITS HIMSELF TO SOMETHING HE'S PASSIONATE ABOUT, HE DOESN'T NEED A REASON TO DO IT.
IT'S AN INNER DRIVE...
RIGHT?
SHŌ.
IF YOU NEED A REASON ...
...THEN IT MUST NOT BE WORTH THAT MUCH TO YOU ANYWAY.


SHŌ.
!
YOU WAIT UP FRONT.
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.
TA-TSUYA.
...LET YOU FLY.
I'M GOING TO...


YOU JUST STAY RIGHT THERE...
...AND WE'LL MAKE SURE...
...YOU GET YOUR PASS.


KANSAI
KANS



WHAM

BOOM

TH UP

TOOM

WH∞SH

SOMETHING IS FLOWING THROUGH ME FROM DEEP INSIDE...

TA-TSUYA!

BOOM

BA

M

AND IT'S MOVING MY BODY.

PERFECT FINAL PASS!

BOOM!

TATSU-
BOY!

BA

M

SHIGEKI!

DON'T WANT TO LOSE!

CAN'T LOSE!

YAAAAAH!

WHISTLE!



THE FINAL PASS!

THE COURSE WAS CHANGED.

IT'S NOT GOING TO WORK!

NO!

THIS MIGHT BE THE LAST CHANCE!

THERE'S NO GUARANTEE WE'LL GET ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY.

STAGE:211 Pleiades in the Wind



STAGE.211 Pleiades in the Wind

HE KICKED IT UP!

WOW! HE CALIGHT UP.

NOT UNTIL...!!

I WON'T GIVE UP!

...THE VERY END!

...SILENCE FELL ALL AROUND ME.

IN THAT MOMENT...

SHIGEKI IS COMING!

I CAN FEEL THEM APPROACHING FROM THE FRONT AND THE RIGHT.

...IN SLOW MOTION.

IT SEEMS LIKE THEY'RE MOVING ...

HUH?

I'LL SHOOT AS I TURN TO THE RIGHT

I'LL SEND THE BALL BACK WITH A HEADER AND

I CAN DO THIS.

OR AM I THE ONE WHO'S MOVING PAST?

SHO!

HE'S TRYING TO SET UP A SHOT WITH HIS HEAD AND SHOOT TO THE RIGHT.



HE READ ME?!

SHŌ!

I CAN STOP HIM!

KINSAI

FLY !!!


BOO
OO
M
SH
SH


A
BAMM
THUNK
WHUMP

SOUJI?

WA!

TW-ING-E

YOW!

I THINK I MIGHT HAVE SPRAINED MY LEFT KNEE.

OUCH.

SHŌ!

I CAN HEAR SHIGEKI'S VOICE... AND TATSUYA.

YOU OKAY, SHŌ?

SHŌ?

JOSUI WAS WHERE I FIRST LEARNED ABOUT HOW AWESOME AND FUN IT IS TO BE PART OF A TEAM.



I GOT TO PLAY AGAINST SO MANY DIFFERENT KINDS OF TEAMS...



AND I MADE SO MANY FRIENDS...



AND I'VE BEEN SUPPORTED BY SO MANY PEOPLE...



SHŌ.



BUT I WASN'T ALONE. EVERYONE FROM JOSUI WAS THERE...

IF TATSUYA HADN'T BEEN THERE, I MIGHT'VE QUIT--EVEN THOUGH PLAYING SOCCER WAS THE ONLY REASON I TRANSFERRED SCHOOLS.



TATSUYA...

THAT'S RIGHT.

I'M SO THANKFUL TATSUYA WAS AT JOSUI.

SHIGEKI...

IT'S BECAUSE I TRAINED SO HARD WITH SHIGEKI...



...THAT I COULD PUT UP A FIGHT AGAINST MUSASHINOMORI AS A FORWARD.



THAT WAS AN UNFORGETTABLE GAME.

I WISH I COULD PLAY IT AGAIN.

SHŌ ?!

...

IT'S LIKE A DREAM COME TRUE!

...SUCH GREAT TEAM-MATES!

I GOT TO PLAY WITH...

IT'S SO WONDER-FUL!

IF HE'S GOING TO TALK LIKE AN AIRHEAD, I CAN'T HELP IT!

OOF

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! WHAT IF HE HAS A CONCUSSION?!

SQCK

DID WE MAKE THE SHOT?

WHAT ABOUT THE GOAL?

2ND

EXT

TOTAL

ONE MORE GOAL...

WE'RE ENTERING OVERTIME NOW.

WE TIED IT UP AT THE END OF THE SECOND HALF.

ONE MORE GOAL!

LET'S DO IT...

...AND WIN THIS THING!

YEAH.

LET'S DO IT!

I FEEL LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING IMPORTANT I'M OVERLOOKING.

I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.

I'M FINE.

I CAN KEEP GOING.

DIZZI-NESS?

ANY NAU-SEA?

MY LEFT LEG FEELS WEIRD...

?

POW

YEAH. I CAN KEEP GOING.

ARE YOU OKAY?

I CAN SEE THE LIGHT...

AND WE'RE GOING TO WIN.

ONE GOAL ...

ONE MORE GOAL.



AND SO THE BOY BECAME THE WIND.





WHISTLE!



STAGE.212

August 2002

SO AS A CONTINUATION OF THE SAME GOLDEN AGE THAT BROUGHT US ONO, TAKAHARA AND INAMOTO.. WELL, TO BE HONEST...

NOW IS CONSIDERED BY SOME TO BE AN EVEN GREATER ERA OF SOCCER.

THE STRENGTH OF YOUR GENERATION, THE UNDER-18 AGE GROUP...

WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF THAT STRENGTH ?

WHERE DID IT COME FROM?

THIS IS SO NOT LIKE YOU...

CLICK

GOOD OLD CHIKA.

...MAKES YOU TOTALLY SOUND LIKE A REAL-LIFE PROFESSIONAL SPORTS WRITER.

CONDUCTING AN INTERVIEW LIKE THIS...

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO CARRY ON AN INTERVIEW LIKE THIS?

PLEASE DON'T MAKE FUN OF ME, SHIGEKI.

YOU LOOK SO PRIM AND PROPER, I CAN'T HELP TEASING YOU.

AH, I'M SORRY.

YIKES!

AND YOU PUBLISHED A BOOK TOO.

WE-L-L, YEAH.

BY THE WAY

I DON'T JUST ***SOUND LIKE*** A PROFESSIONAL SPORTS WRITER, SHIGEKI, ***I AM ONE!***

I'M CONTRACTED AT *WINNING RUN.*

HE TOLD ME HIMSELF. ♡

THAT IDIOT! ☆

I HEARD YOU'RE GOING OUT WITH TAKASHI.

WHAT?! HOW DID YOU KNOW?!

IT'S BECAUSE WE ALL SAW *HIM.*

A GUY WHO FOUGHT HEAD-ON AND DEAD SERIOUS, EVEN BEYOND HIS OWN LIMITS.

SO... THE REASON FOR OUR STRENGTH, HUH?

WHAT A DUMMY...

SHIGEKI ...

HE DIDN'T HAVE TO GO THAT FAR JUST FOR A PRACTICE GAME.

IT'S BECAUSE HE PUSHED HIMSELF THAT HE SUFFERED SUCH A DEVASTATING INJURY.

HE MANAGED TO MAKE HIS FIRST HAT TRICK IN THAT GAME.

GRIN

OH, BY THE WAY, YOU KNOW WHAT?

...AS A SORT OF TROPHY.

IF YOU DO A HAT TRICK, YOU RECEIVE THE BALL THAT WAS USED DURING THE GAME...

IT'S A PREMIER LEAGUE TRADITION ...

OH YEAH ...

BECAUSE OF EVERY-THING THAT WENT DOWN AFTERWARDS, NO ONE REALLY BOTHERED TO THINK ABOUT THAT

HOW COULD WE FORGET?

...DEEP IN YOUR HEARTS. INCLUDING YOU, SHIGEKI.

I CAN TELL THAT YOU ALL STILL CARRY HIS MEMORY ..

AREN'T WE ADORABLE?

WE WROTE GRAFFITI ALL OVER THE BALL AND MADE IT OUR GOODBYE PRESENT TO HIM.

WE COPIED THAT CUSTOM.

HE WAS ALWAYS PASSIONATE, WHETHER IT WAS PRACTICE, A GAME OR ANY OTHER TIME.

HE WAS SO DETERMINED-- HE DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO GIVE UP.

SOCCER WAS SOMETHING HE DEDICATED HIS WHOLE BEING TO-- HIS WHOLE LIFE.

HOW COULD WE NOT BE FASCINATED BY THAT KIND OF PLAY?

THERE'S NO WAY WE COULD FORGET HIM.

BECAUSE HIS BLAZING WIND BLEW PAST ME...

...IT'S LIKE A FLAME WAS KINDLED IN ME THAT KEEPS SMOLDERING INSIDE.

"KEEP GOING. YOU'RE NOT THERE YET. KEEP PUSHING FORWARD." THAT'S HOW I THINK NOW.

I INTERVIEWED TEN OF YOUR PEERS, AND EVEN THOUGH THEY PHRASED IT IN DIFFERENT WAYS, THEY ALL SAID SOMETHING SIMILAR.

I GUESS THAT MEMORY IS THE SECRET TO YOUR STRENGTH.

THAT SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT.

DID YOU GET YOUR STORY?

YEAH.

I'VE GOT TO GO TO MT. FUJI FROM HERE.

SEE YA. ♡

KACHACK

WHAT...?

WOOP

OKAY THEN.

THIS INTERVIEW IS OVER!

YOU CAN MAKE UP WHAT-EVER SOUNDS GOOD.

HOLD ON A SEC!

I HAVE MORE THINGS I WANT TO ASK...

SLAM

OH!

MT. FUJI?

M-6

SORRY I KEPT YOU WAITING...

THE UNDER-19 TRAINING CAMP!!

...TA-TSU-BOY!

YOU'RE LATE!

SHUT UP! IF THEY HADN'T MADE THAT OFFSIDE CALL AT THE WRONG SECOND, WE COULD'VE DELIVERED THE FINISHING BLOW.

DON'T BE CRANKY JUST BECAUSE YOU LOST THE HOME GAME

WELL, NO.

ACTUALLY, WE LOST IN THE END BECAUSE WE COULDN'T CHANGE THE OVERALL FLOW OF THE GAME.

YOU'RE QUITE THE PHILOSOPHER.

I TOOK A LITTLE TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE WITH CHIKA.

CHIKA? YOU MEAN, MISS ASAKURA?

OH YEAH, SHE INTERVIEWED ME TOO.

I'M NOT GOING TO ACT LIKE A STAR WHEN I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING TO DESERVE IT YET

WAVE TO THE FANS, TATSU-BOY

WOW SHIORI'S FROM SAKURA IS WITH HIM TOO!

AWW THAT'S MY DAYS TATSUYA OF THE HARUHI'S

NO WAY

EE EK!

EE EK!

YOU MEAN, YOU TALKED ABOUT THAT DAY?

YEAH.

...THREE YEARS HAVE GONE BY.

...ALREADY ...

SINCE THAT DAY..

SO IN CONCLU-SION...

JOSUI JR. HIGH SCHOOL

BUT, MS. KATORI ...

ONLY ONE SET OF GOALS FOR A HUNDRED-MEMBER CLUB IS INSUFFI-CIENT!

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, VICE PRINCIPAL ?!

TATSUYA AND THE OTHERS GRADUATED YEARS AGO.

...PLEASE ALLOCATE MORE BUDGET TO OUR SOCCER CLUB!

IT'S OUR JOB--THE *TEACHERS'* JOB--TO RECOGNIZE THEIR POTENTIAL AND *BRING OUT THE BEST IN THEM!*

EVERY CHILD WHO JOINS THE SCHOOL SOCCER TEAM HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BECOME THE NEXT BIG SOCCER PLAYER, JUST LIKE SHŌ AND ALL THE OTHERS!

ALL RIGHT! ♡

BUT, PRINCIPAL!

I GIVE PERMISSION.

I'M TOUCHED.

DUNNO.

WHAT, THAT HOT GIRL?

WHO'S THAT?

South Josui High School

HUH?

MASATO!
YŪSUKE!

WHEN DID YOU GET BACK FROM AMERICA?

JEEZ LATER! HEY INTRODUCE ME TO HER

WHO'S SHE?

SO I CAME HERE STRAIGHT FROM THE AIRPORT

I WANTED TO SEE YOU ALL RIGHT AWAY

HEY, YOU LOOK HAPPY!

WHAT? YOU'RE GOING RIGHT BACK TO AMERICA AGAIN?

MOZU BURGER

I GOT INTO THE JUNIOR LEAGUE THERE. I'LL BE TRAINING WITH THEM IN SEPTEMBER, WHILE I GO TO SCHOOL.

AND MASATO, HOW ABOUT YOU GUYS?

THAT'S SO RAD!

夏シェーク

YUKI!

HEY THERE

I KNEW ABOUT THAT ALREADY.

AND SINCE MUSASHI-NOMORI WON THE CHAMPIONSHIP IN THE END, THAT WAS AS FAR AS ANYONE COULD HAVE GONE.

JOSUI HIGH MADE IT TO THE SEMIFINAL OF THE TOKYO CHAMPION-SHIP, DIVISION A.

WHICH WAS PRETTY AMAZING.

PLUS, WE WERE UP AGAINST MUSASHINOMORI IN THE SEMIFINAL.

TOTALLY!

HOW?

SEIJI SENT A POSTCARD TO MY EXCHANGE FAMILY'S HOUSE!

WE WON!

HOW DID HE KNOW YOUR ADDRESS?

HE ASKED ME BEFORE I LEFT.

I HAD NO IDEA

MAN ...

I STILL SOME-TIMES WONDER...

...WHAT WE'D BE DOING NOW IF WE'D NEVER KNOWN SHŌ.

YOU KNOW, OUR GRADUATING CLASS IS KINDA FAMOUS AT JOSUI JR. HIGH.

AFTER ALL, WE'VE GOT TWO HIGH-SCHOOL-AGE J-LEAGLERS *AND* A FEMALE STUDENT WHO'S GONE ABROAD FOR SOCCER.


IF WE'D NEVER MET HIM, WE WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN SO COMPLETELY ABSORBED IN SOCCER.
WE MAY NOT HAVE EXPERIENCED AS MUCH PAIN AND HARDSHIP...
...BUT WE ALSO WOULD NEVER HAVE TASTED THE JOY OF SHARING TRIUMPH WITH OUR FRIENDS, AND WOULD HAVE NEVER EXPERIENCED THE KIND OF HAPPINESS THAT YOU FEEL DEEP IN YOUR CHEST.
SORRY FOR GETTING ALL EMO.
IT WOULD BE NICE TO SEE EVERYONE TOGETHER AGAIN, WOULDN'T IT?
THERE'S GOING TO BE A U-19 GAME AT NISHI-GAOKA STADIUM.
LET'S GO CHEER THEM ON!




I'VE BEEN BUSY THESE PAST FEW MONTHS.
HELLO.
HEY, CHŌ, LONG TIME NO SEE.


WELCOME!

I GOT TO EXPERIENCE SOME PRETTY COOL STUFF.

WELL, IT'S ALL ABOUT CULTURAL EXCHANGE THESE DAYS, YOU KNOW
BUT, OYASSAN, YOU WERE ALSO VERY BUSY TRAVELING ALL OVER JAPAN DURING THE WORLD CUP, RIGHT?

OYAS-SAN.

WELL, LET'S JUST SAY SOCCER IS AN AMAZING THING.

IT ALL STARTED WHEN...

TO BE ABLE TO HAVE SO MUCH FUN AT MY AGE...

MAY I USE YOUR ELECTRICITY?

EXCUSE ME.

ONE ORDER OF ODEN, PLEASE!

BWOOP

OYAS-SAN!

DRAGON BALL

THANKS FOR WAITING.

WHO'S HE?

HE SORT OF MADE HIMSELF MY APPRENTICE

HE'S A WESTERNER I MET IN MY TRAVELS, AND HE TOLD ME HE FE... IN LOVE WITH THE TASTE OF ODEN.

DON'T DROP IT, MICHAEL.

HERE YOU GO.

BEEP

...

HELLO ?

OH, IT'S YOU, KŌ!

RRRING

WELL, KINDA.

OYASSAN, THIS HAS BECOME AN INTERNATIONAL OPERATION.

WE'RE AT HEATHROW AIRPORT IN LONDON RIGHT NOW.

BTY

DUTY

YEP.

SHALL WE GO?

OKAY.

adidas

RIGHT

SEE YOU LATER THEN.

WHEN WE GET BACK, WE'LL BE SURE TO STOP IN AT YOUR SHOP.

YEAH.

36-56

ALL RIGHT!

Under-19
Invitational Training Camp

NO WAY.

HEY, IT'S HIM.

丸山空汰

SC REECH

THANKS, AKIRA.

JUST IN TIME.

YOU THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE *HIM*.

I MAY NOT LOOK IT BUT I'M 167 CENTI-METERS NOW!

HMPH!

WHAT?!

BECAUSE YOU'RE SMALL, I THOUGHT

OH, IT'S JUST YOU, TSUBASA.

WHY DO YOU THINK HE WENT ALL THE WAY TO GERMANY?

IS HE REALLY COMING?

IT'S BEEN THREE YEARS, AFTER ALL.

HE'S NOT THE SORT OF GUY WHO'D GIVE UP JUST BECAUSE OF ONE PROGNOSIS.

HE'LL COME.

YOU KNOW, THEY TOLD HIM HE WAS BEYOND RECOVERY.

...I'VE BELIEVED IT.

SINCE THAT DAY...

HE'S GOING TO RETURN TO THE FIELD.

SOME-ONE'S OUT ON THE FIELD.


I'M BACK!
JAPAN

HOW YA DOIN', MAN?

SHŌ!

SHŌ!

OUCH.

SHŌ !!!

HA HA HA!

IT'S ***YOU GUYS*** WHO GREW TOO MUCH!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? I'VE GROWN 16 WHOLE CENTI-METERS.

WHAT?! I THOUGHT YOU'D GET BIGGER AFTER EATING MEAT EVERY DAY OVERSEAS.

BUT YOU'RE STILL AS SMALL AS EVER!

YEP.

THAT BALL.

...FROM WHERE I LEFT OFF...

EVEN IF I CAN'T CATCH UP...

BECAUSE I HAD IT WITH ME...

I COULD MAKE IT THROUGH ALL THE DIFFICULT REHAB.

IT'S MY TREASURE.

I JUST HAVE TO KEEP RUNNING TOWARDS MY DREAM!

ALL RIGHT, YOU BRATS.

TWEE TWEEEE

LET'S START THE TRAINING!

...HAS ONLY JUST BEGUN.

MY NEW CHALLENGE...

(Final Episode)

STAGE.212 Journey to the Never-Ending Dream

WHISTLE!

Daisuke Higuchi

Contributing Writer


WHISTLE!



EPILOGUE

You'll Never Walk Alone



WA

MY BODY FEELS LIGHT!

IT FEELS SO GOOD !!

I'M MOVING FASTER THAN I THOUGHT I COULD.

THIS IS NEW!

TO THE RIGHT!

AH!!

RIGHT NOW, I CAN DO ANY-THING!!

SPIN

STOP HIM!

SCRITCH

SEE, I'M RIGHT ON TARGET.


WHA...
SNAP

SOMETHING IS BREAKING...

I HEARD IT BREAK.

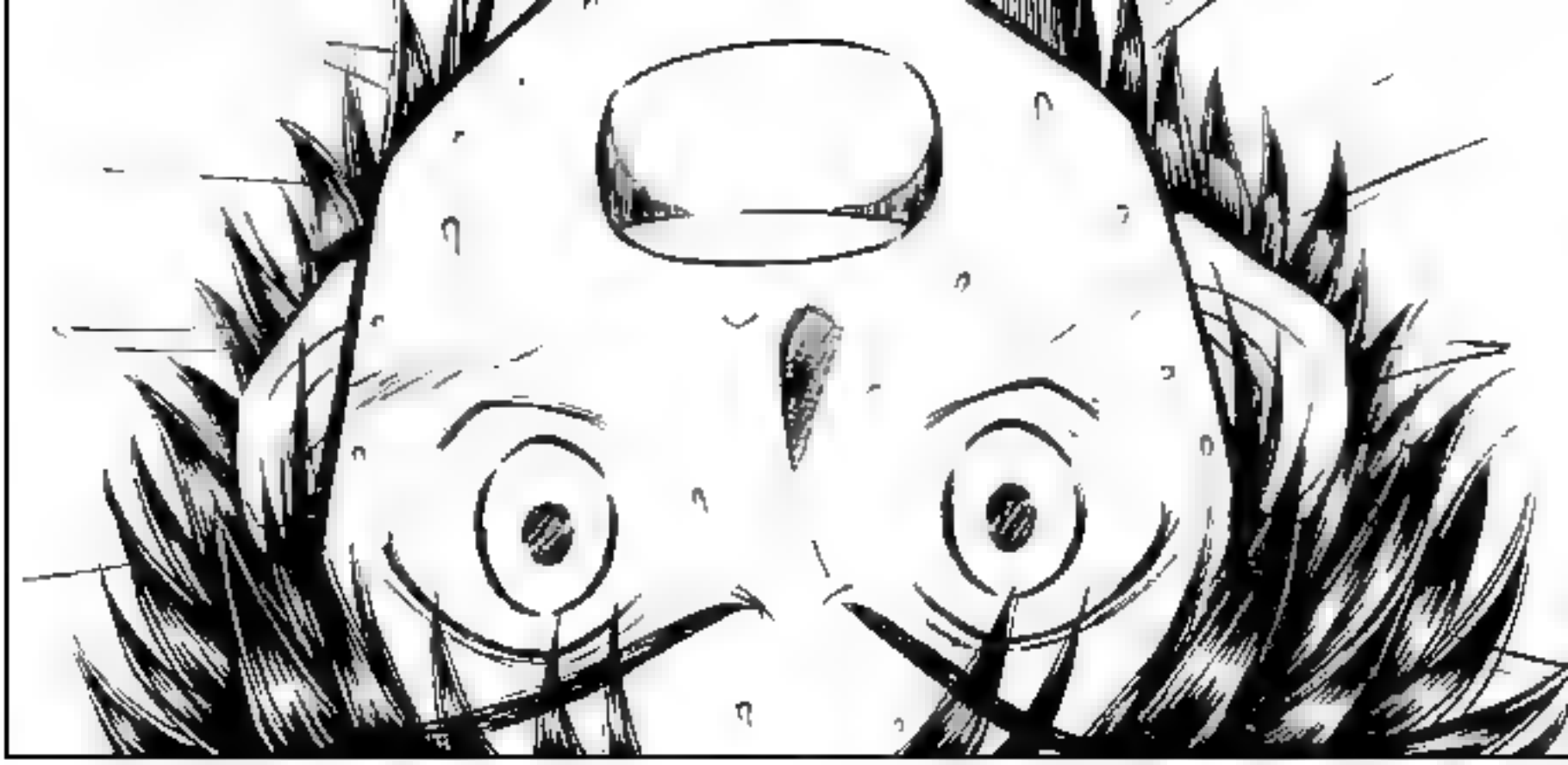
I UNDER-STOOD WHAT HAD HAPPENED...

THAT VERY MOMENT...

WHO

THE SKY IS DARK.

...AND I DIDN'T LIKE IT AT ALL.




HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

CHIRP
CHIRP
A DREAM?

HUFF

I KEEP HAVING THAT NIGHT-MARE...

PRIORITY MAIL

OUCH

TWINGE

MY LEFT KNEE...

IT WASN'T A DREAM.

春日総合病院

THE OPERATION WAS A SUCCESS.

HOW-EVER...

AFTER MAKING THE INCISION, WE DISCOVERED THAT THE DAMAGE WAS MORE EXTENSIVE THAN WE HAD PREVIOUSLY ASSUMED.

IF REHABILITATION GOES WELL, HE SHOULD BE ABLE TO LEAD A NORMAL LIFE, BUT...

...HE MUST AVOID INTENSE ATHLETIC ACTIVITY OF ANY KIND.

SO...

KŌ! STOP IT...

THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN?

YOU MEAN...

...HE CAN'T PLAY SOCCER?

...

SHŌ...







SKRTCH

BRO KŌ.

ALL RIGHT, I'LL COME BY AND PICK YOU UP IN THE EVENING.

OKAY.

THANKS FOR DOING THIS.

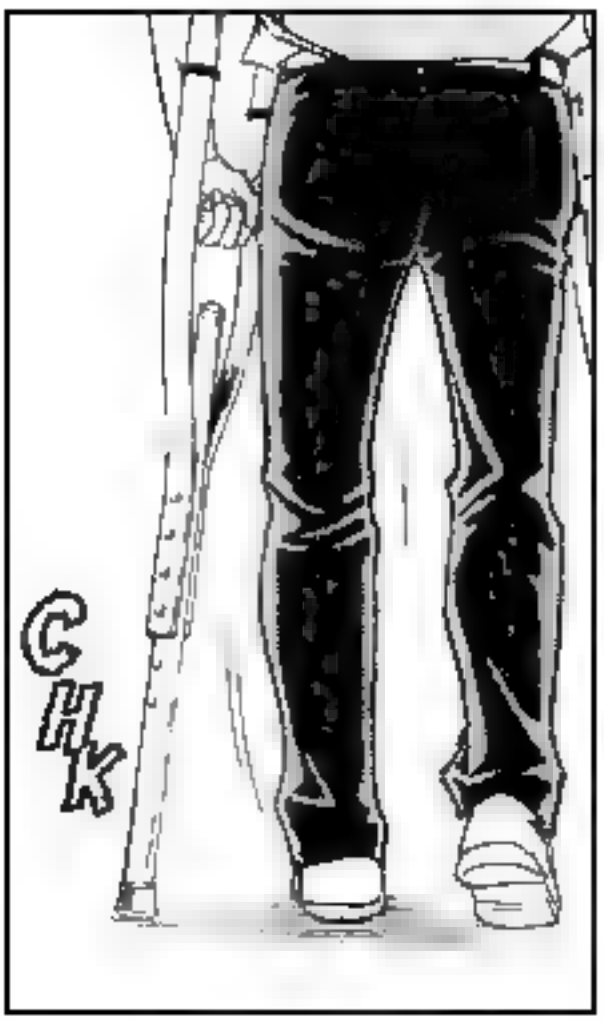
... EVERY DAY.

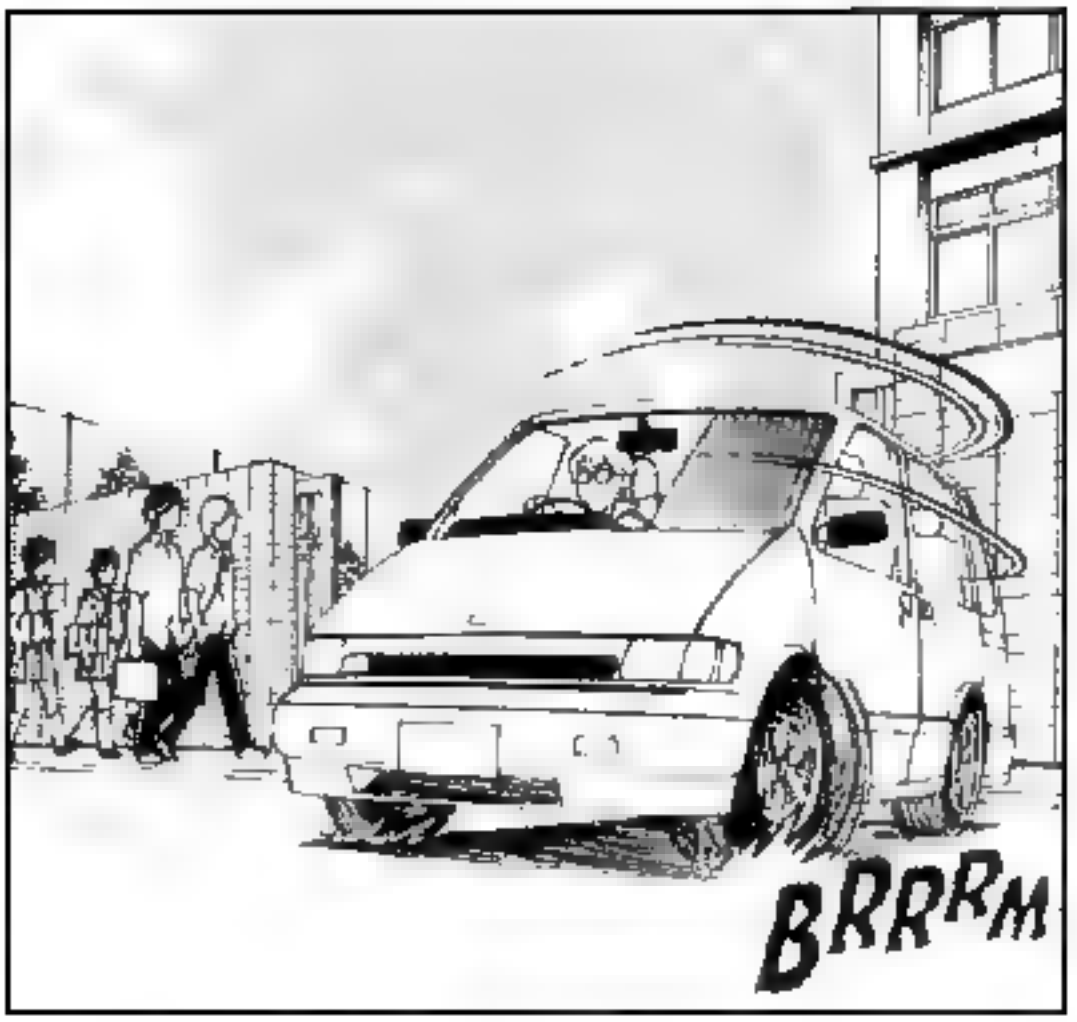
NO PROB. DON'T BE LATE!


SLAM


OKAY, I'M GOING!




CHK


BRRRM

YEAH, IT'S PART OF MY REHAB.

YOU OKAY TO CLIMB STAIRS?

GOOD MORNING!

WHAS-SUP?

HUP HUP

HUP HUP

HUP

SCREEE

...AWAY FROM HIM? *IT'S TOO MUCH!*

TAKING SOCCER ...

TH UP

I'M LATE!

BRRRING BRRRING

TH

OOPS.

UP

WHAM

WHOA.

ZWOOF

WH

UMP

WOBBLE

THWACK

ACK!


YOU KNOCK SOMEONE OVER AND THEN YOU JUST BAIL? WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
HEY, YOU!


SHI-GEKI!
I'M FINE, REALLY!
WHY YOU LITTLE...!


SHUT UP. I BARELY GRAZED HIM!


I'M FINE.
IT... WASN'T A BIG DEAL.


AND YOUR LEG INJURY?
HOW WAS THE UNDER-15 CAMP?


OH NO! SHIGE!
THANKS!
YOU'RE TOO NICE, PUPPY.

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE...

NOTHING COMPARES TO THE SHOCK OF SEEING SOMEONE MAKE A HAT TRICK WITH MY VERY OWN EYES.

...THAT I ACHIEVED A HAT TRICK.

YEAH ...

WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO PICK UP THAT GAME WHERE WE LEFT OFF.

DON'T KEEP ME WAITING FOREVER.

YOU KNOW HOW IMPATIENT I CAN BE.

GLOOM

MINE WAS PRETTY BAD.

SO YOU KNOW THOSE EXAM RESULTS WE GOT BACK THE OTHER DAY?

BUT ...

I DON'T WANT TO GIVE UP.

IF MY NEXT EXAM IS THAT BAD...

...I WON'T BE ABLE TO GO TO MY FIRST-CHOICE SCHOOL.

IF YOU HAVEN'T DECIDED, THEN LET'S APPLY TO SOUTH JOSUI TOGETHER!

YOUR LEG SHOULD BE HEALED BY THEN, RIGHT?

BECAUSE MY FIRST CHOICE IS SOUTH JOSUI HIGH, AND THEY HAVE A GREAT SOCCER TEAM.

WHAT?

HOW 'BOUT YOU, SHŌ?

!

TA-TSUYA!

GARA

IF YOU GO THERE, WE CAN BE ON THE SAME TEAM AGAIN.

UH, YEAH.

HEY. YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ASKED, SO DON'T BE SO SNOTTY.

I'M SURE A SMARTY PANTS LIKE YOU CAN GO ANYWHERE HE WANTS.

SO WHERE ARE YOU GOING NEXT YEAR?

I THOUGHT SOCCER CLUB WAS OVER FOR THE YEAR.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HANGING OUT IN HERE?

ACTUALLY, I'M NOT SURE.

MUSASHI-NOMORI...

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

I JUST STOPPED BY TO GRAB SOME-THING.

OOPS!

MU, MOO ... MOO...

MU...

MUSASHI-NOMORI?

MORNING MUSUME GIRLS ARE HOT!

ACT OF DESPERATION

TATSU-BOY, YOU'RE SO BAD.

OH, STOP IT.

WHAT? YOU WANNA NUZZLE MY CHEST?

PUNCH PUNCH

HOW DID YOU SUDDENLY APPEAR?!

POOR TATSUYA-KUN

DON'T TELL ME MY LITTLE TATSU-BOY IS ALL GROWN UP! ♡

SNICKER

BWAHAHA!

THAT'S TRUE...

HEE HEE

WHOA, TATSUYA

HATING HIMSELF

OKAY.

WELL, I'M GOING HOME.

TAKE CARE.

SORRY I'M LATE.

BRO KŌ!

LOOKS LIKE YOU GUYS ARE HAVING A GOOD TIME.

YOU'RE BEING OVERLY CONSID-ERATE.

IT MAKES ME NERVOUS JUST WATCHING YOU.

SHI-GEKI.

I DIDN'T MEAN ...

...I SWEAR I'M GOING TO KILL MYSELF.

IF YOU START SAYING THAT, THEN...

IF I... HADN'T SENT THAT TYPE OF PASS, HE...

TATSU-BOY, THAT'S WHY...

...YOU AND I ARE...

HEY, SHŌ!

IT'S SUCH A BUMMER THAT YOU COULDN'T PLAY IN THE SPRING TOURNA-MENT

BUT, SHŌ, YOU'LL GET WELL RIGHT AWAY.

I'M SURE OF IT!

YEAH, I'M MUCH BETTER NOW.

ARE YOU DOING OKAY?

I'M SO GLAD. ♡

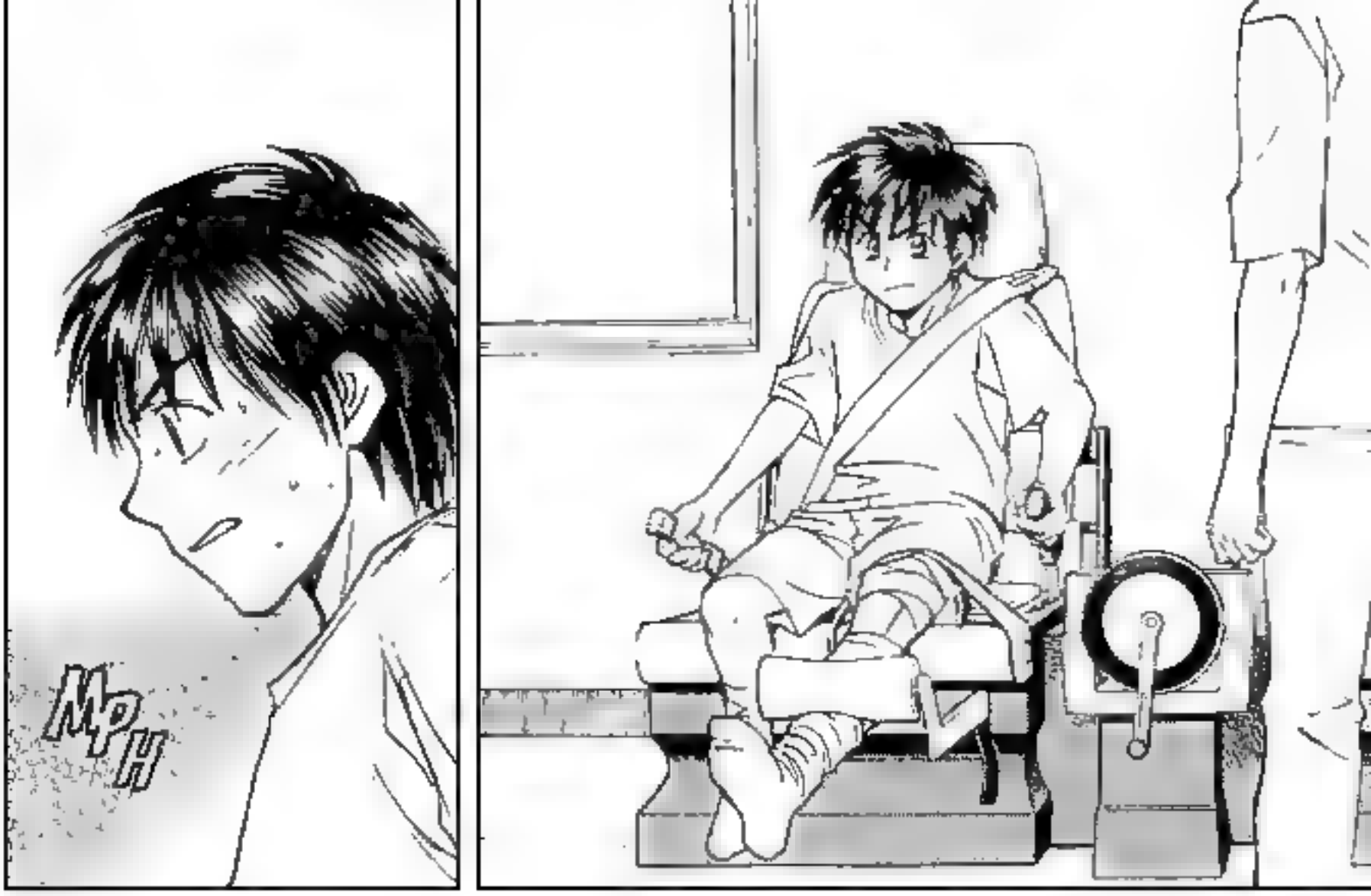
HI, MIYUKI!

THANK YOU.

AND I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE SOCCER TEAM AT JOSUI!

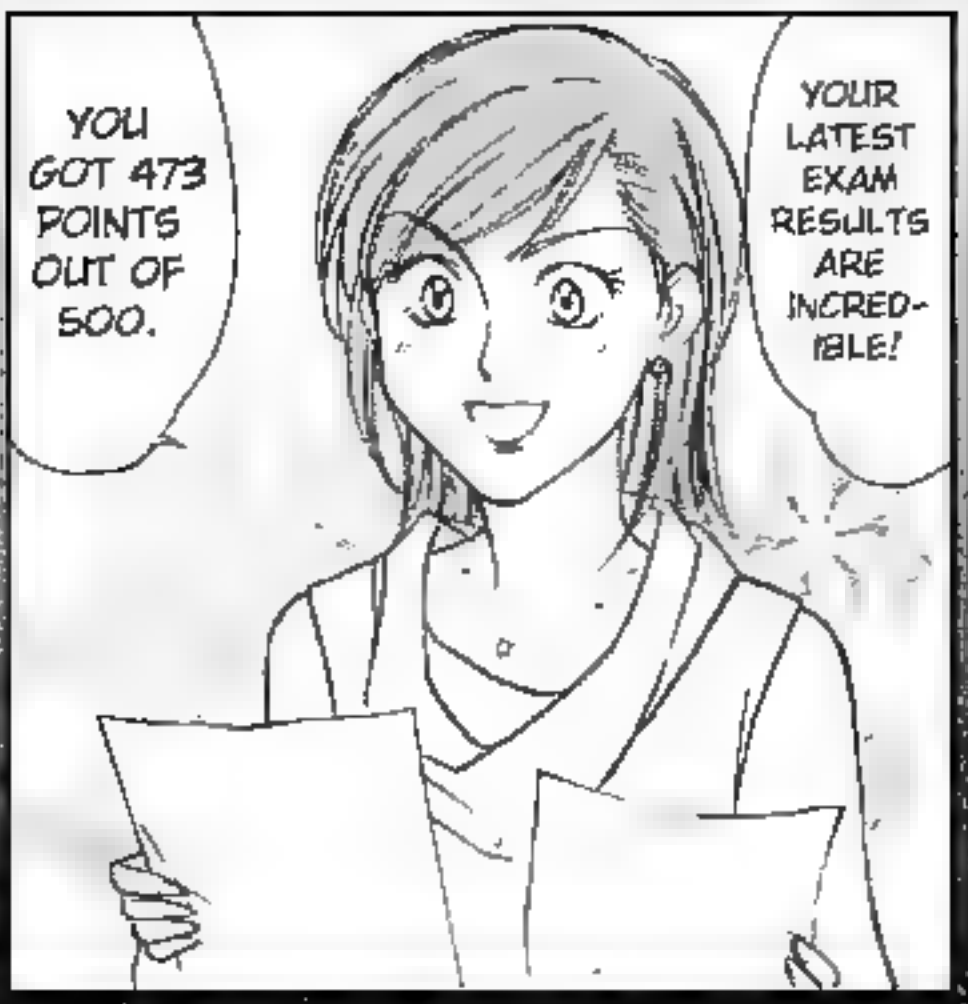
DON'T WORRY, I'M GOING TO DO MY BEST, JUST LIKE YOU!

Rehabilitation Ward


MPH


WOW!
GREAT JOB,
SHŌ!


YOU REALLY DO WELL WHEN YOU TRY. ♡
THAT MEANS YOU RANKED NINTH IN YOUR CLASS.


YOU GOT 473 POINTS OUT OF 500.
YOUR LATEST EXAM RESULTS ARE INCRED-IBLE!

IF YOU KEEP THIS UP, YOU'LL BE ACCEPTED INTO ALMOST ANY HIGH SCHOOL.

YOU'LL WANT TO GO SOME-WHERE WITH A STRONG SOCCER TEAM.

BUT COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU USED TO GO TO MUSASHINOMORI AFTER ALL, WHICH IS A TOP SCHOOL.

YOU WERE NAPPING SO MUCH DURING CLASS THIS YEAR THAT I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO HASN'T SUBMITTED IT YET

OKAY ...

BEFORE THE NEXT TEST, YOU NEED TO FILL OUT THE FORM THAT SAYS WHICH SCHOOL YOU WANT TO ATTEND.

UM... UH-HUH.

RIGHT, SHŌ?

I MIGHT NEVER BE ABLE TO PLAY SOCCER AGAIN.

SOCCER RECOMMEN-DATION?

THAT'S AWESOME.

..ON THE STRENGTH OF THE R SOCCER RECOMMEN-DATION.

SHIGEKI AND TATSUYA HAVE ALREADY BEEN ACCEPTED...

GOOD!
NOW 30 MORE REPS.
MP
H
MP
H
SHŌ.
MY HEART ALMOST STOPPED.
WHEN I HEARD YOU HAD RECEIVED A SEVERE INJURY DURING THE GAME...
I DON'T WANT YOU TO PLAY SOCCER ANYMORE.

...WITH THIS TYPE OF INJURY, YOU'D HAVE TO GO THROUGH A DIFFICULT REHABILITATION PROCESS, EVEN AFTER THE OPERATION.

WHAT THE DOCTORS ARE SAYING IS...

SHŌ ...

...IT WILL PROBABLY REQUIRE SEVERAL TIMES AS MUCH REHABILI-TATION.

AND TO GET BACK TO THE LEVEL OF SOCCER YOU WERE PLAYING BEFORE THE INJURY...

IT WILL TAKE AT LEAST SIX MONTHS TO RESTORE BASIC FUNCTION.

...TO HALT YOUR TRAINING FOR AN ENTIRE YEAR WOULD HAVE DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES.

AT YOUR AGE, JUST AS YOU'RE GROWING ...

FROM WHAT I UNDERSTAND, IF YOU WANT TO BE A PROFESSIONAL IN ANY SPORT, THEN THE SOONER YOU START, THE BETTER.

...I WOULD LIKE YOU TO FOCUS ON YOUR HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAM, AND PLAN ON LIVING A NORMAL LIFE.

THIS IS SUCH A CRITICAL TIME IN YOUR LIFE, SHŌ. INSTEAD OF EMBARKING ON SUCH A RISKY PATH...

SH...

THAT'S PROBABLY THE RIGHT DECISION.

KŌ TOLD ME HOW HARD YOU WORKED TO COME THIS FAR.

AND I'M VERY PROUD OF YOU.

SHUT...

I UNDERSTAND THEIR CONCERNS.

I WANT TO SUPPORT YOUR ASPIRATIONS, SHŌ...

BUT WE ALSO NEED TO BE REALISTIC.

WOULDN'T IT BE ENOUGH TO HAVE SOCCER AS A HOBBY?

SHUT UP.

I'LL THINK ABOUT IT.

THANKS ...

...FOR WORRYING ABOUT ME.

WHY AM I SMILING?

THANKS.

DR. MINAMI, TELE-PHONE.

OKAY

EXCUSE ME FOR A MOMENT, SHŌ.

TAKE A BREATHER.

TAP

TAP

I HAD TO TAKE A CALL, AND HE JUST TOOK OFF.

I LOOKED ALL AROUND THE HOSPITAL, BUT HE'S NOT THERE ..

WHERE'S SHŌ?

DR. MINAMI, WHAT'S UP?

HUH? ISN'T HE WITH YOU?

asics

BR RI NG
BR RI NG

HE'S NOT AT THE CONDO EITHER?

HMM, WHERE WOULD HE GO?

UH...

HAVE YOU SEEN HIM AROUND?

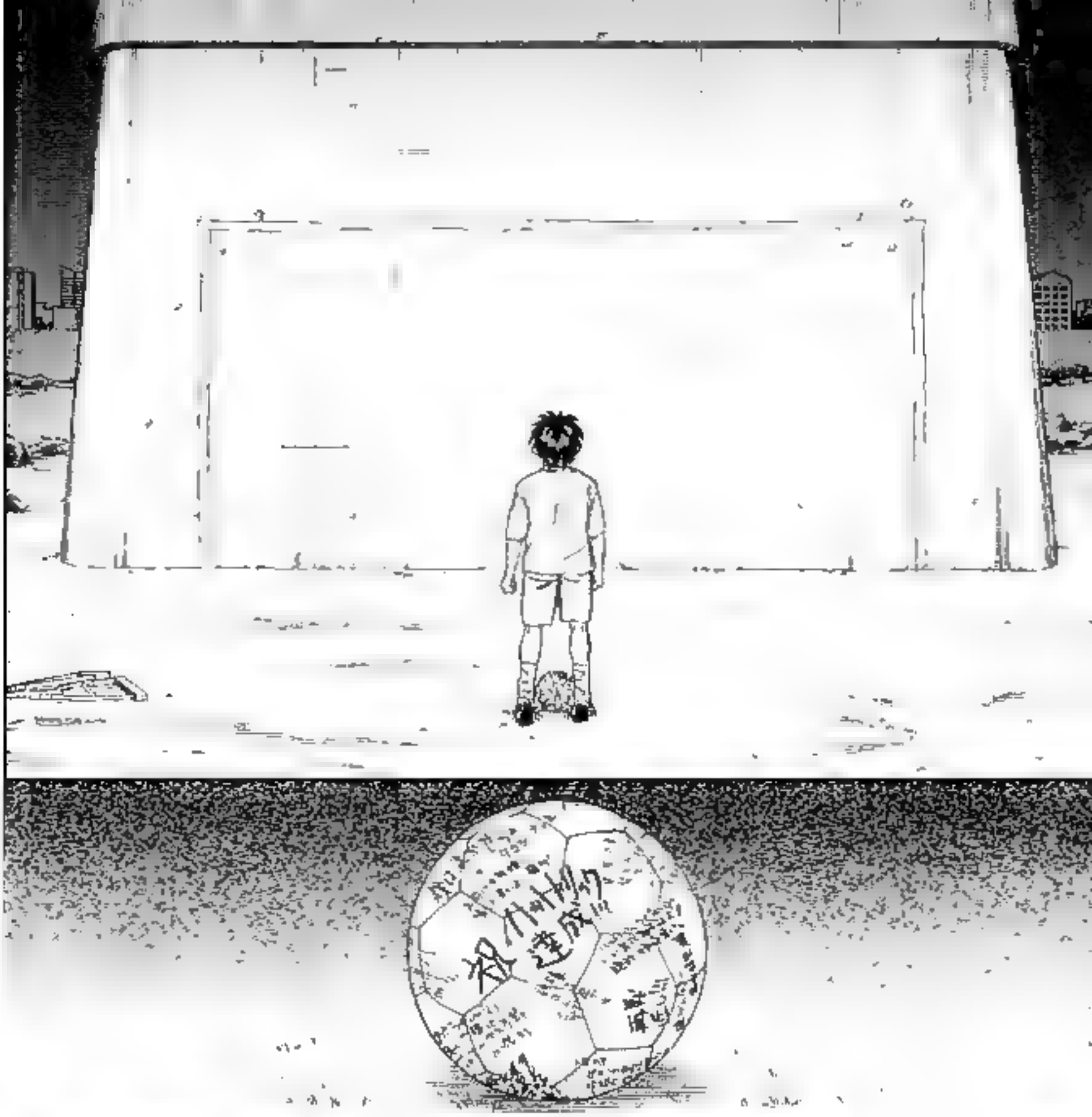
WELL, SHŌ SNUCK OUT OF THE HOSPITAL AND WENT SOME-WHERE.

WHAT'S UP?

YOU'RE SHŌ'S BROTHER, RIGHT?

OH.

THE RIVER-BED ?!











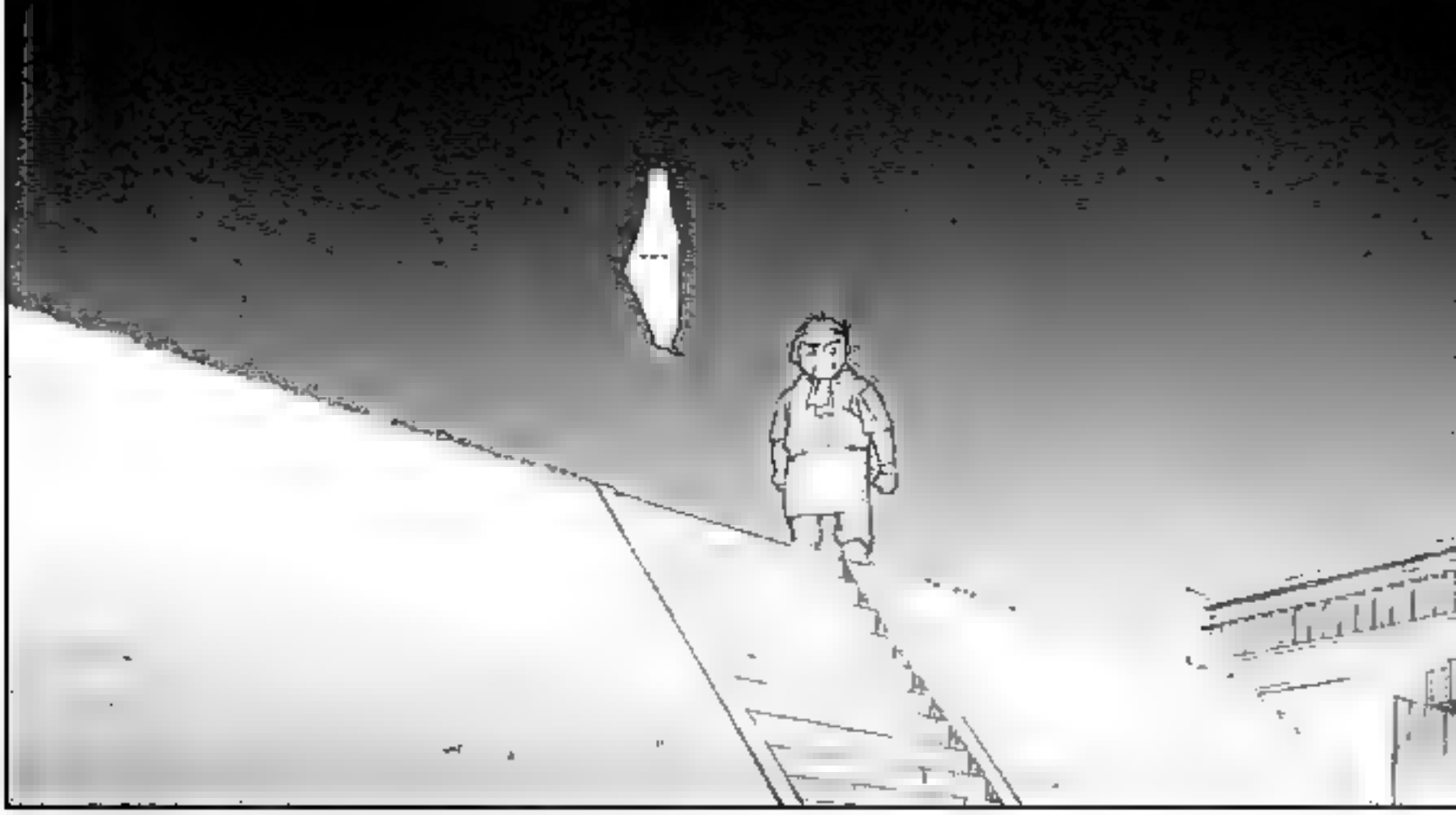
SHOOT

WHAT

THE SOUND OF A BALL?

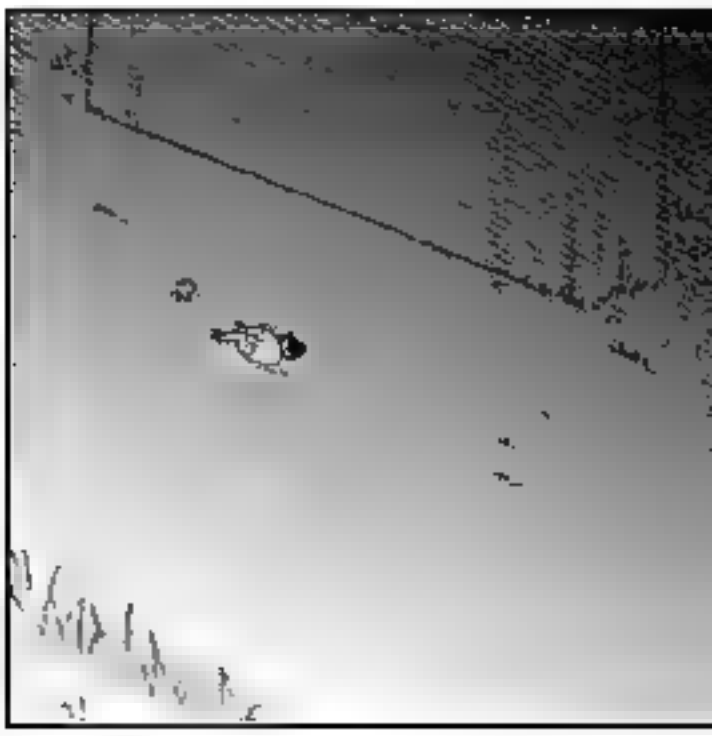
IT CAN'T BE.

!




SHŌ!


!




ARE YOU FEELING SICK?
SHŌ!


WHAT'S THE MATTER?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
WEREN'T YOU JUST INJURED?

MY ...

THROB

GRIP

OYAS-SAN...

I CAN'T DRIBBLE ...

I CAN'T RUN OR PIVOT...

THROB

THROB

MY LEG!

IT'S TURNED INTO A *USELESS PIECE OF JUNK!*

I DON'T WANT IT

THROB

...OR KICK.

IF I CAN'T PLAY SOCCER ...

I DON'T WANT THIS STUPID LEG ANY-MORE!

SHŌ ...

WAAAAAAAAA

FOUND HIM!

THIS GUY FOR SURE...

COACH SAIONJI!

!

HELLO?






I TOLD YOU IT WAS NOTHING!
I'M GLAD IT WASN'T SERIOUS.


THAT VOICE ...


GASP
AHHH.
I'M GLAD THAT'S OVER!

THAT YOU, KIDDO?

HEY!

!

OH?

I GUESS SOCCER GOT YOU TOO, EH?

UH, HI!

S... SUŌ ¿?!

WHAT'RE YOU DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?

A PRO, HUH ...?

BUT, SUŌ, YOU'RE A PRO ..

OH NO.

DOES THAT MAKE ME STUPID?

WELL, I'VE GOT SCARS ALL OVER MY BODY.

I WANTED TO BE BETTER, SO I WORKED REALLY HARD. BUT BECAUSE I TRIED TOO HARD, I GOT INJURED, AND NOW I CAN'T PLAY...

I FEEL SO STUPID.

THERE'S NOTHING GOOD ABOUT BEING A PRO.

IT HURTS. IT'S HARD AND PAINFUL. YOU CAN'T GET THROUGH IT JUST BY LIKING SOCCER.

YOU'RE SURROUNDED BY NEGATIVE CRITICISM...

I GET INJURED A LOT.

AND EVERY TIME, THEY'RE LIKE...

TIME TO RETIRE! IT'S ALL OVER!

WHAT A BUNCH OF BULL. STUPID MAGAZINES.

JUST YOU WAIT. I'M NOT GIVING UP!

THUMP

ARE YOU GONNA KEEP PLAYING?

BUT... THE DOCTORS SAY I CAN'T.

SO? HOW ABOUT YOU?

WHY DON'T YOU *FIGHT?*

IF ANYONE'S GONNA DECIDE WHEN I QUIT, IT'LL BE *ME!*

THUMP

UNLESS YOUR CHANCES ARE ZERO PERCENT...

YOU NEVER KNOW UNLESS YOU TRY!

LOOK AT ME!

MY LEG MAY BREAK AND MY LIGAMENTS MAY TEAR APART...

...BUT I'M STILL HERE, AT THE FRONT-LINE!

KEEP ON FIGHTING !!

IF YOU DO...

THERE WILL *DEFINITELY* BE A PATH FOR YOU!

I *WILL!*

BUT WILL YOU PUSH THROUGH?

I GUARANTEE IT'LL BE TOUGH.

MAN. I'M HOOKING YOU *UP!*

¿?

WHAP

THEN HERE'S SOMETHING GOOD.

ALL RIGHT!

I CAN'T JUST HOP OVER-SEAS ANY TIME I WANT.

THAT OLD MAN BRAGS THAT HE CAN EVEN REATTACH TORN OFF LEGS!

HE'S A FAMOUS DOCTOR WHO HEALED MY KNEE!

BUT IF HE'S IN GERMANY, IT'S TOO FAR, SUŌ.

ぼのぼの

DR. HEINZ MULLER.

Dr Heinz Mulle

I'M JUST A KID I'M NOT EVEN A PROFESSIONAL PLAYER. THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ON MY OWN

BRO KŌ!

SHŌ!

MATSUSHITA AND SAIONJI HEARD OF A DOCTOR IN GERMANY WHO CAN HEAL YOUR KNEE!

I SEARCHED ONLINE MYSELF AND CAME ACROSS THE SAME DOCTOR.

AND I'LL EVEN GO WITH YOU!

LET'S GO TO GERMANY!

WHAT ?

IN SOCCER, YOU HAVE TO PLAY WITH SUPPORT OF LOTS OF OTHER PEOPLE.

I'M SURE IT'LL GET BETTER.

LET'S TRY OUR BEST, OKAY?

I'M NOT ALONE.

THE GOODWILL OF MY FRIENDS IS WHAT'S CARRYING ME THROUGH.

YES.

I GOT A LETTER FROM SHŌ.

Hi everyone, how are you? The surgery was a success, and I'm working hard on rehab every day.

Ryoichi often comes to visit me with his sister.

I've really gotten used to living here.

The other day, I touched a ball for the first time in six months.


TUP
TUP
TUP
BIP
BOOM



YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE (The End)

EVEN THOUGH *WHISTLE!* HAS LOTS OF FEMALE FANS, SOMEHOW, I, DAICHI FUWA, HAVE AN EQUAL NUMBER OF MALE FANS.

IN THIS VOLUME, I HARDLY HAD A CHANCE TO APPEAR.

Professor Daichi's

WHISTLE!

Research Report

...I HAVE CREATED THIS SPECIAL SECTION.

AS AN EMERGENCY RESCUE MEASURE FOR DAICHI FANS...

IT APPEARS THAT THIS PHENOMENON IS DUE TO ELEMENTS OF THE AUTHOR'S PERSONALITY, SUCH AS "RANDOMNESS," "FORGETFULNESS" OR "UNWILLINGNESS TO PAY ATTENTION TO DETAIL."

THERE ARE MANY MYSTERIES THAT HAVE BEEN INSUFFICIENTLY EXPLAINED IN THE PAGES OF *WHISTLE!*

FOR EXAMPLE, ***MYSTERY 1:***

IS MUSASHI-NOMORI A BOYS ONLY SCHOOL?

ANSWER:

NO, IT IS A COED SCHOOL.

HOW-EVER...

THE FENCE THAT DIVIDES THE BOYS' SECTION AND THE GIRLS' SECTION...

...IS KNOWN AS THE "PARTITION OF LOVE." ITS HEIGHT IS ESTIMATED TO BE FOUR METERS.

GIRLS' SECTION

BOYS' SECTION

GIRLS' BUILDING

BOYS' BUILDING

...IT IS DIVIDED LIKE THIS.

THEREFORE, IT IS DEBATABLE AS TO WHETHER IT CAN TRULY BE DESCRIBED AS A COED SCHOOL.

A BASIC DIAGRAM OF THE MUSASHINOMORI JUNIOR HIGH AREA.

IT'S THIS.

BUT I DID DISCOVER ONE INTERESTING PHENOMENON WORTH FURTHER INVESTIGATION.

BUT THE AUTHOR IS STARTING TO TIRE OF THIS STORY, SO I'LL KEEP THE REPORT BRIEF.

LIKE THE "BERLIN WALL," IT IS ASSOCIATED WITH MANY DRAMATIC HISTORIES.

ANYHOW, IF A COUPLE WHO ARE IN LOVE WITH EACH OTHER WRITE DOWN THEIR NAMES AND HANG IT HERE, THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER.

THAT BEING SAID, THE BASIS FOR THIS BELIEF IS UNSUBSTANTIATED.

IT'S A PLACE WHERE LOVERS, WHO HAVE BEEN FORCED APART BY THE FENCE, PROMISE THEIR ETERNAL DEVOTION.

BUT I'M NOT EXACTLY SURE WHY THEY USE LOCKS.

LOVE

TETUYA

A "PROMISE LOCK."


LOVE


THAT'S A NEW DEVELOP-MENT.
A "PROMISE LOCK" FOR TWO GIRLS?


HEE HEE HEE!


?
?
OH, HEY, DAICHI.


WHAT IS IT?
I HAVE A QUESTION TO ASK YOU
SEIJI, YOU'VE COME AT A CONVENIENT TIME


WHAT ARE YOU DOING?


HUH, THERE'S A LOT OF THIS KIND.
AH, THIS?
WHAT IS THIS?


STOMP STOMP STOMP
I HEAR IT'S A "MAIDEN'S DREAM."
IT MEA...
WHAT EXACTLY IS IT?
"MAIDEN'S DREAM"? THE MEANING OF THIS PHRASE IS INCOMPRE-HENSIBLE TO ME.

WHACK

GU...

SHUT UP.

DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN JUST KNOCK ME AROUND!

← HIGH SCHOOL SECTION. TENTH GRADE

JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY IN THE HIGH SCHOOL SECTION...

AKIRA!

OW!

JUNIOR HIGH SECTION. NINTH GRADE

WHAT IS IT THAT YOU'RE HOLDING IN YOUR HAND?

HM?

P.S. APPARENTLY MUSASHI-NOMORI'S SCHOOL STORE EVEN SELLS TEMPLE CHARMS.

ISN'T THIS A FENCE THAT GRANTS WISHES?

NO. THEY DON'T!

STUPID, STUPID, STUPID, STUPID!

HOW DARE YOU CALL ME STUPID?!

KA-TSU-RŌ.

THEY'RE A LOST CAUSE

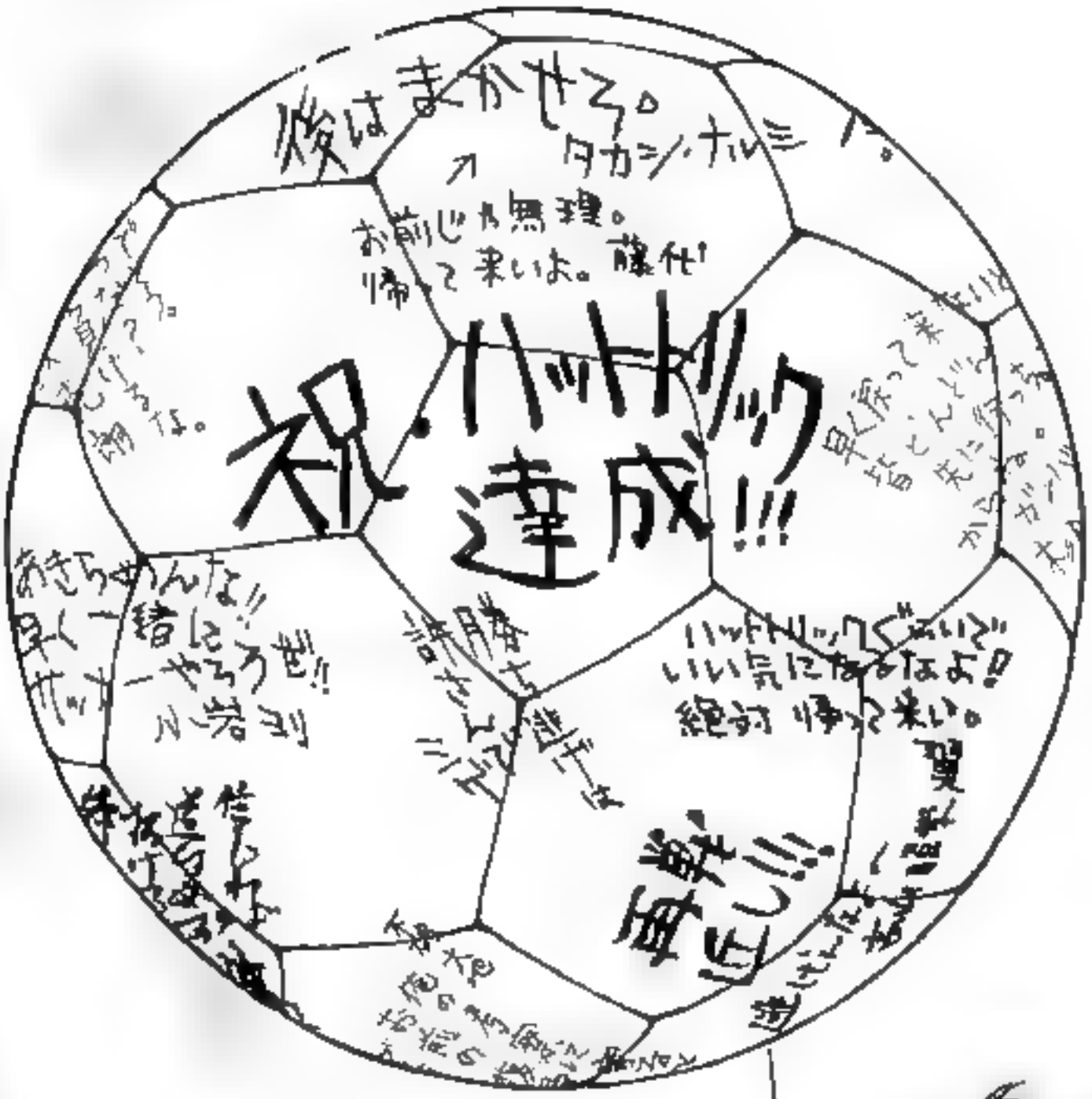
THAT'S FOUR TIMES IN A ROW. AAARG!

I'VE GOT QUITE A STASH HERE! ♡ THEY'RE PILING UP!

UNLIKE YOU, AKIRA SENPAI

STUPID.

I DON'T ENVY YOU AT ALL.


俊はまかせろ。
タカシ・ナルミ
↑
お前じゃ無理。
帰って来いよ。藤代!
祝・ハットトリック
達成!!!


THIS BALL ALSO CONTAINED A LOT OF GET-WELL WISHES FOR OUR FRIEND SHŌ--THE HERO OF THIS SERIES.


お前は
でかくなる
帰ってくるのを
待ってる
ROSSA

WHISTLE!

FROM THE FAN CLUB BOOK POSTER INSERT

"FUTURE CONCEPT DRAWING"
ROUGH SKETCH—HERE'S AN IDEA OF WHAT THE CHARACTERS MIGHT LOOK LIKE IN THE FUTURE.



Ryoichi Tenjo
Moves to Germany in 1999. Belongs to Germany (Bayern). Travels back and forth between Japan and Germany. A Japan representative (U-19).

Katsurō Shibusawa
While still attending university, joins J-League (Antlers). A Japan representative (U-19). As Japan's young guardian deity, he represents a challenge to the rest of the world.

Shō Kazamatsuri
Travels to Germany in 1999. As a Japan representative (U-19), returns to the Japanese soccer world. Is working hard to become a regular instead of a substitute.

Tatsuya Mizuno
While still attending Musashinomori High School, joins J League (Marinos). A Japan representative (U-19).

Eishi Kaku
After graduating from high school, joins J-League (Sanfrecce). A Japan representative (U-19).

Tsubasa Shiina
After graduating from high school, moves to Spain. Belongs to Spain (Malaga). A Japan representative (U-19).

Yūto Wakana
After graduating from high school, joins J League (Gamba). A Japan representative (U-19).

Seiji Fujishiro
While still attending Musashinomori High School, joins J League (Marinos). A Japan representative (U-19).

Yuki Kojima
While still in high school, moves to the U.S.A., aiming to play in a professional women's soccer league.

Kazuma Sanada
After graduating from high school, joins J League (Reysol). A Japan representative (U-19).

Shigeki Fujimura
After graduating from Yamashiro High School, joins J League (Kyoto Sanga). A Japan representative (U-19).

Daichi Fuwa
After graduating from Kurosu High School, goes on to attend Kurosu University. Continues to pursue both academic and athletic efforts. A Japan representative (U-19).

Shigeru Mamiya
While still in high school, moves to Italy. Later joins J League (Antlers). A Japan representative (U-19).

Takashi Narumi
After graduating from high school, joins J-League (FC Tokyo). A Japan representative (U-19).

Yoshitada Jokō
After graduating from high school, joins J-League (Sanfrecce).

Shōei Takayama
After graduating from high school, joins J-League (Jubilo). A Japan representative (U-19).

Kotaro Abe
After graduating from high school, joins J League (Consadole). A Japan representative (U-19).

Kazu Kunugi
After graduating from high school, joins J-League (Grampus). A Japan representative (U-19).

Masato Takai
After graduating from high school, while taking over family business, participates in the JFL. Also coaches a young boys' soccer team.

Yūsuke Morinaga
Goes on to attend high school and university. Later becomes a school teacher and is in charge of the school's soccer team.

Teppei Koiwa
Drops out of high school. Joins J-League (Ventforet).

Toshiki Sugama
After graduating from high school, joins J League (S-Pulse).

Note: I used the names of real-life teams. My apologies.



AND NOW, HERE'S THE SECRET-REVEALING QUESTION CORNER, WITH DIRECT ANSWERS FROM THE AUTHOR!

STARRING INTERVIEWER DAICHI FUWA! GO, TEAM, GO!

DAICHI: NOW LET'S POSE OUR QUESTIONS TO *WHISTLE!* AUTHOR, DAISUKE HIGUCHI. <AHEM> AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THE AUTHOR IS A GOD-LIKE BEING WHO CONTROLS THE FATE OF THE *WHISTLE!* WORLD. YOU COULD HAVE DONE ANYTHING YOU WANTED TO DO. SO WHY DID YOU MAKE SHŌ GET INJURED SO HORRIBLY? WASN'T IT A LAST-DITCH EFFORT TO FORCE SOME DRAMA INTO THE FINAL EPISODE?

HIGUCHI: WHAT A MERCILESS QUESTION TO START OFF WITH... WELL, IT WASN'T FORCED. IT WAS AN EPISODE I HAD IN MIND SINCE I FIRST CAME UP WITH THE CHARACTER CALLED SHO KAZAMATSURI. INJURY COMES WITH BEING A SPORTSMAN--IT CAN'T BE AVOIDED. IN A WAY, I WANTED TO CREATE THIS EPISODE IN ORDER TO MAKE SHŌ GROW UP EVEN MORE AS HE OVERCOMES IT.

DAICHI: HMM. INDEED, SHŌ HAS MATURED A LOT. HIS HEIGHT IS ALREADY 165 CENTIMETERS TOO.

HIGUCHI: AHHH, HIS HEIGHT. TO TELL THE TRUTH, I RECEIVED MANY FAN LETTERS SAYING "DON'T MAKE SHŌ GROW BIG" AND "PLEASE LET HIM STAY SMALL." IT WAS KIND OF DISTURBING! (LAUGH)

DAICHI: THEN LET'S MOVE ON TO THE NEXT QUESTION. WHO ARE YOUR FAVORITE AND LEAST FAVORITE CHARACTERS?

HIGUCHI: ANOTHER HARD TO ANSWER QUESTION... I LIKE THEM ALL. BUT I THINK THE CHARACTERS WHO TURNED OUT TO BE MORE FUN THAN I ANTICIPATED WERE THE KYUSHU SELECT MEMBERS (LIKE SHŌEI AND YOSHITADA). I WOULD'VE LIKED TO SEE THEM FEATURED MORE (AND KAZU, THE GK TOO). BUT... I HAVE THIS SAME IDEA FOR THE ADULTS... <COUGH, COUGH>



DAICHI: DID YOU CATCH A COLD?

HIGUCHI: OH NO, I'M FINE. PLEASE DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. THE KYUSHU SELECT WAS FUN TO DRAW. AND DRAWING THE ADULT CHARACTERS WAS FUN TOO, LIKE OYASSAN AND SOU. I WOULD'VE LIKED GROWN-UP CHARACTERS TO BE FEATURED MORE (OR TO BE MORE ACTIVE BEHIND THE SCENES)... WELL, IF I START THINKING ABOUT EVERYTHING I WANTED TO ADD, I WON'T BE ABLE TO LET IT GO. SO I'LL JUST KEEP IT IN MIND FOR MY NEXT PROJECT.

DAICHI: WHAT ABOUT THE CHARACTERS YOU DON'T LIKE?

HIGUCHI: THERE'S NO CHARACTER I DISLIKE. BUT THERE ARE ONES I HAD A HARD TIME WITH.

DAICHI: ME?

HIGUCHI: IN YOUR CASE, ASSISTANTS TELL ME IT'S HARD TO DEAL WITH YOUR HEAD...

ASSISTANTS: "THAT'S NOT TRUE! DON'T LISTEN TO THAT!"

HIGUCHI: I HATE TO SAY THIS, BUT...IT'S TATSUYA. HAIR PARTED IN THE MIDDLE, EYEBROWS SLANTING UP AND EYES SLANTING DOWN--IT WAS REALLY HARD TO DRAW HIM. (I HEARD THE SAME THING FROM THE ANIMATION STAFF.) AND SUŌ... BECAUSE I LIKE HIM SO MUCH, I WANTED HIM TO LOOK REALLY COOL, BUT I JUST COULDN'T DO HIM JUSTICE BECAUSE HE'S WAY TOO COOL IN REAL LIFE! ON THE OTHER HAND, THE EASY ONE TO DRAW WAS SHIGERU, I GUESS. IT'S FUNNY, BECAUSE SHIGERU'S FACE IS ALSO REALLY WELL DRAWN IN THE FAN LETTERS EVERYONE SENT ME.

DAICHI: IT SEEMS TO TURN INTO A REALLY LONG ANSWER WHEN I HAVE YOU TALK ABOUT CHARACTERS. SO LET'S GET ON TO THE NEXT QUESTION. DO YOU HAVE ANY MESSAGES FOR YOUR READERS?

HIGUCHI: SHO CHALLENGED HIMSELF THROUGH SOCCER. I WOULD LIKE TO CHALLENGE MYSELF IN VARIOUS PROJECTS. I ALSO HOPE THAT YOU READERS WILL CHALLENGE YOURSELF WITHOUT BEING AFRAID OF FAILURE. BECAUSE, UNLESS YOU TRY, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE WHAT POTENTIAL YOU HAVE.

DAICHI: SO THAT'S WHAT YOU WANTED TO CONVEY THROUGH *WHISTLE!*

HIGUCHI: THERE ARE A LOT OF OTHER THINGS TO GET OUT OF IT, BUT PLEASE TAKE YOUR TIME TO READ AND THINK ABOUT THE REST.

DAICHI: THIS CONCLUDES THE INTERVIEW.

HIGUCHI: WHAT? IT'S ALREADY OVER? WAIT, I HAVEN'T SAID EVERYTHING YET! THANK YOU FOR SENDING LETTERS ALL THE TIME. EVEN THOUGH I'M UNABLE TO REPLY, I ALWAYS APPRECIATE THEM. I'D LIKE TO RETURN YOUR KINDNESS BY DRAWING FUN MANGA. PLEASE CONTINUE YOUR SUPPORT! AND I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN IN ANOTHER TITLE! ADIOS.



DOES THAT MEAN THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS TO LEARN ABOUT IN THE WORLD THAT WE CAN'T LEARN THEM ALL, EVEN IF WE SPEND OUR WHOLE LIFE TRYING?

"INTERVIEW WITH THE AUTHOR."

DAICHI BONUS EPISODE FILE

"THE NAME OF RYOICHI'S SISTER." "IS MUSASHINOMORI A BOYS ONLY SCHOOL?"

"CLOSE UP OF THE GAME BALL."

ACCORDING TO A FAMOUS PERSON, "FOR HUMANS, LIFE IS LEARNING."

.. THERE ARE MANY MORE UNSOLVED MYSTERIES.

SUCH AS "THE TRUTH BEHIND SHŌ'S SMILE" AND SO ON.

BUT ...

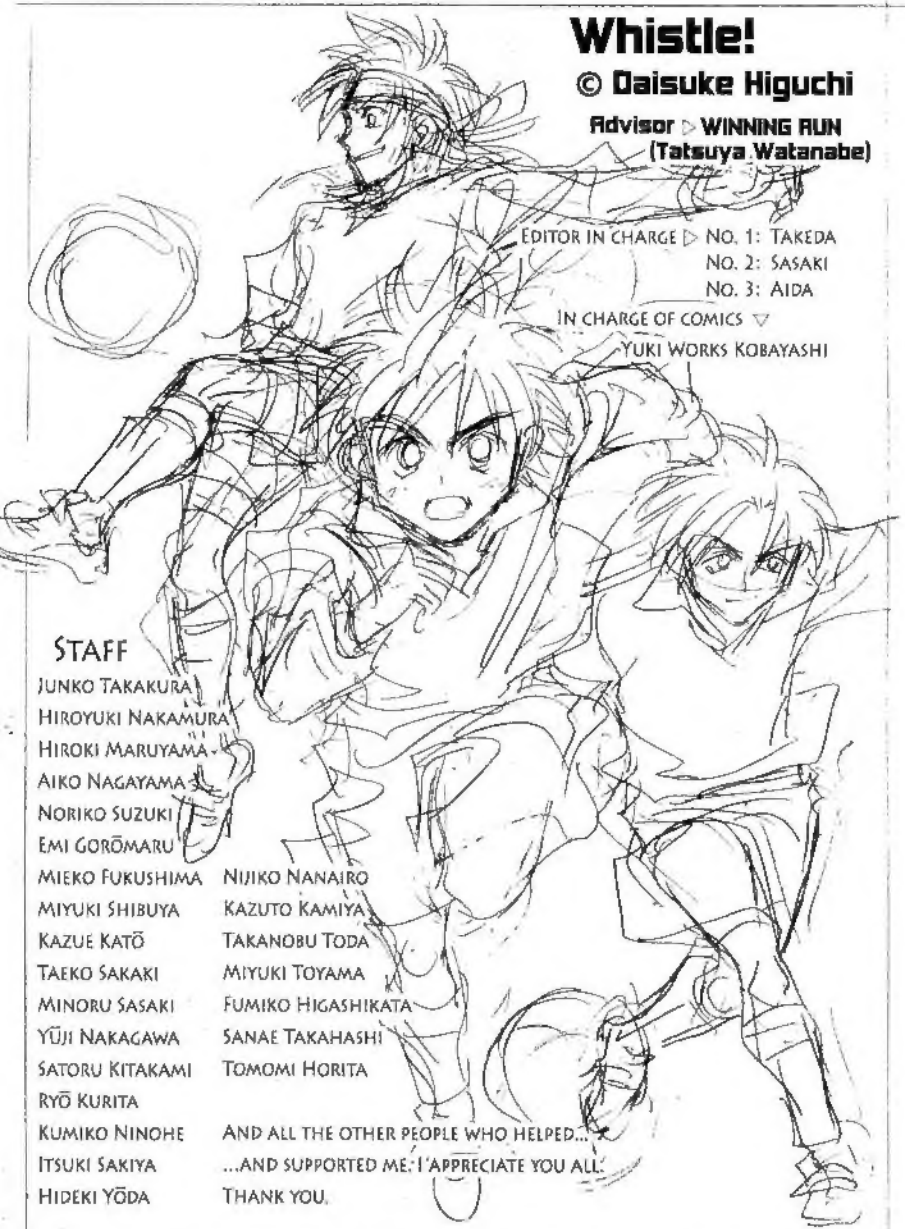
THAT'S IT. THIS FILE IS CLOSED FOR NOW.

GRIP

AS A CATALYST TO STUDY HUMAN BEHAVIOR, SOCCER IS DEEPLY INTRIGUING.

THEREFORE, IT SEEMS I CANNOT QUIT SOCCER UNTIL I'M DONE SOUNDING THE MYSTERIOUS DEPTHS OF HUMAN NATURE.

Professor Daichi's *Whistle!* Research Report (The End)



Whistle!

© Daisuke Higuchi

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Fumiko Higashikata
Sanae Takahashi
Tomomi Horita

And all the other people who helped...
...and supported me. I appreciate you all.
Thank you.

WHISTLE!

SHONEN JUMP MANGA

Story & Art by

Daisuke Higuchi

volume 24

SJ

WHISTLE! 24 Daisuke Higuchi



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SHONEN JUMP

WHISTLE! volume 24

YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE

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Whistle v24

Scanner and Cleaner: SecretWings

The last volume!! ToT I've enjoyed this series
and encourage you guys to get a hard copy if possible!! =D

For those who still feeling blue
for more soccer manga, check out **Area no Kishi**

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